Rabin arrives in Moscow on 4-day visit

MOSCOW (Ageocles) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin arrived in Moscow Sunday for four days of talks that will include meetings with President Boris Yeltsin and members of parliament. Before leaving occupied Jerusalem, Mr. Rabin said there was a need for closer consultations between leavel and Russia on the Middle Fast Before leaving occupied Jerusalem, Mr. Rabin said there was a need for closer consultations between Israel and Russia on the Middle East peace process. Until recently, Russia has played a junior role in the seace talks, which Moscow is co-sponsoring along with the United States. Last month, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev paid a surprise visit to Israel, bringing new ideas for the peace process. The Israelis acted cooly at the time. "Acknowledging the fact that Russia today is conducting a more active foreign policy. I see the need to talk with the Russian leadership to make sure that this activity is within the agreed framework of the two co-sponsors." Mr. Rabin told Israel agreed framework of the two co-sponsors," Mr. Rabin told Israel army radio. "I hope that we will be able to establish much closer contacts with the Russian leadership concerning the peace process," he said. His trip follows last week's visit by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has encouraged Moscou to revine its influence. Arafat, who has encouraged Moscow to revive its influence.



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YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Volume 18 Number 5596

AMMAN MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1994, THU AL QE'DEH 14, 1414

Majali meets Chinese official

AMMAN (Petra) - The Fine Minister Abdul Salam Majali received at his office in the Parliament Sunday Wang Chao Cho deputy president of the National Committee for Political Conference, and discossed with him bilateral relafions and matters of commoo concern. Dr. Majali said that Jordan bopes China, a perman nemt member at the Security the peace process. Mr. Chu wiced high appreciation for fordan's efforts in bringing about lasting and just peace in the region based on U.N. re-

Warrant issued for Samir Geagea

BEIRUT (AFP) - A judge here issued a formal arrest warrant Sunday for former militia leader Samir Geagea as part of an investigation into the killing of a rival Christian leader in 1990. The official Tele-Liban Television said Judge Mounir Honein, probing the assassination of Dany Chamoun, his wife and two of their children, issued the warrant after Dr. Geagea had been questioned for 10 hours in the presence of his lawyers. Dr. Geagea, former bead of the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, was detained Thursday and bas been beld since then at the defence ministry. The state prosecutor will toform Dr. Geagea of the warrant Monday, jodicial sources said (Protest prevented, page 10).

Ekeus in Iraq

NICOSIA (AFP) -- U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus arrived in Baghdad Sunday for talks with Deputy Prime Minis-ter Tared Aziz on long-term monitoring of Iraq's post-war weapons programmes, a U.N. official said. A "tentative meeting" was set for late Sun-day with Mr. Aziz, said the official at the Baghdad office of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, contacted by telephone from Cyprus. Mr. Ekeus arrived from Bahrain with a delegation which included Maurizio Zifferero, deputy chief of the International Atomic Eoergy Agency (IAEA), and Russian ballistic missiles ex-peret Nikita Smidovich. Baghdad has called for an end to sanctions bitting its oil exports, arguing it bas fulfilled its obligations to the United Nations, notably by agreeing in November to a mechanism for arms controls (see page 10).

Yemen requests delay of talks with S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) - Yemen requested Sunday the postpone-ment of a new round of talks with Saudi Arabia over their long-standing border dispute, officials said. They said the delay was caused by the political crisis gripping Yemeo, where northero and southero leaders have been locked in a power struggle for months. Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry officials said the request was made through Yemeni Ambassador Ghalib Ali Gameel. The Yemenis suggested that the border talks resume after the Eid Al Adha in mid-May, said the officials.

Israei-Gaza border

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has ordered that the construction of a border fence around the Gaza Strip be completed Within seven months, officials said Sunday. "The building work on this electronic fence was to be finished in 10 months," one official said. "The completion date will be brought forward by three months for security reasons following a wave of anti-Israeli attacks." Fencing around the rain Jewish settlement area io Gaza called Gush Katif is being upgraded to include electronic systems. The total cost of the electronic gates, razor wire and electronic alarms around the 370-squarekilometre territory is estimated ar \$45 million, Israel Radio reported.

. .

Israel sees 'territorial concession,' dismantling of settlements for peace

TEL AVIV (AP) — Any permanent arrangement with the Palestinians once self-rule proves workable will involve "territorial compromise" and dismantling settlements, Israeli ministers said Sunday.

"Our goal is to come to a separation," said Agriculture Minister Yaacov Tsur, who is close to Prime Minister Yitzbak Rabin. "Good neighbourliness comes from living next to each other, not on top of each other.'

Until now, Israel has refused to commit itself to future peace moves other than the five-year interim period of limited Palestiniao self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. The self-rule agreement states that no settlements - over 120,000 Jews live in 144 settlements would be removed in that period.

But last week, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said be was willing to return territory and dismantle settlements on the Golan Heights io exchange for peace with Syria - aod Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat reportedly said be wanted to hear the same about negotiations with the Palestinians. Mr. Rabin said Friday be was ready to trade settlements in

all occupied lands for peace. Mr. Tsur said the goal of separating Palestinians from-Israelis stemmed from a recent wave of violent arracks by opponents to the peace talks aimed at sabotaging any Palestinian-Israeli agreemeot. Since the self-rule plan was signed in September, 159 Palestinians and 41 Israelis have died in the violence.

"We must come to the greatest degree of separation because we see terror continuing in the foreseeable future, even with implementatioo of the agreement," Mr.

Other ministers echoed his remarks, which came as Israeli negotiators left for Cairo to resume talks on implementing the Sept. 13 agreement,

"It's clear that with the final arrangement there will be territorial compromise," said Economics Mioister Shimon Shetreet, saying dismantling of the settlements was inevitable. One presumes that Jews will not want to stay under the authority of another country."

Mr. Sbetreet said that the government hoped the agreement could be signed by May , and that Forcign Minister Shimon Peres would be in Cairo this Thursday to finalise remaining problems.

Those include questions about what courts will try what citizens, Palestinians identity documents, control over airspace and sea-lanes, money, postage stamps and other sym-

bols of statehood. One issue that was resolved was the timing of the arrival of the first of 9,000 Palestinian policemen. Mr. Shetreet said 1,000 members of the force will arrive 24 hours after the agreement is signed.

Israel Radio quoted cabinet sources as saying that Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin were split on how long the negotiations could be extended. Mr. Peres thought no more

than two weeks, and Mr. Rabio thought it could be stretched to ensure all issues were successfully negotiated before implementation.

Mr. Peres denied any split. We will definitely make an intensive effort to complete the negotiations," he said on Israel Radio upon his return from talks with Mr. Arafat in Bucharest, "But there is a serious list of issues on one hand and we must always leave room for unexpected surprises from the other side."

Mr. Rabin approved an additional 4,000 permits for Palestinian day labourers working in Israel on Sunday despite a strict closure imposed after two suicide bombing and an attack that killed 13 Israelis this month.

The labour ministry said the decision would bring to 8,500 the number of Palestinians now allowed into the country.



REGENT VISITS GHQ: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters (GHQ) where he was received by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Abdul Hafez Mirai and

senior army officers. The Regent and Gen. Mirai discussed issues of concern to the Armed Forces. The meeting (photo above) was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali. The Crown Prince also visited the Al Hussein War College.

Post-disengagement regulations to be reconsidered and updated

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday called for reconsidering regula-tions issued in 1988 following Jordan's severance of legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank. The reconsideration aims at updatiog and modernising the regulations to cope with develop-ments since the disengagement with the West Bank.

Addressing secretaties-general of the various ministries during a meeting held at the Water and Itrigation Ministry, the Regent stressed the need to reconsider the criteria governing the residence of West Baokers in Jordan with the aim of facilitating and eas-

ing administrative procedures. Prince Hassan said the department dealing with crossings across the River Jordan should coordinate with the various authorities concerned to facilitate crossing procedures.

the importance of interministerial coordination to ensure implementation of the country's planning policies.

The Crown Prince called for "igniting spirit of innovation among the administrative staff' through reaching agreements on what is to be implemented.

"Reaching the 64 per ceot private-sector participation target specified in the national five-year development plan will not be possible unless the legislation becomes homogenous and simple," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan said the private sector had the liquidity and desire to invest in Jordan and called for the formation of a task force to help this sector carry out investment projects in Jordan without neglecting the state's preparatory and

monitoring role. The Regent said the private sector could play a leading

role, noting that it could con-

tribute to addressing the ground water salinity problem, which is the result of the ovetuse of water resources.

Prince Hassan called for taking the necessary measures to ensure the proper use of water

Prince Hassan called for teconsidering a proposal for setting up a bank or a fund for dealing with state-owned land through measures capable of bandling requests to use such

Creating incentives in this regard will be of prime import-ance at this time, when Jordan is facing extraordinary circumstances, caused by demographic and population pressures and land uses, he said,

The Crown Prince stressed the need for studying the technical aspects of Al Moujib, Al Waleh and Al Tannour valleys in South Jordan with a view to ensuring the quality of water

(Continued on page 5)

Settler attacked, 3 **Palestinians** wounded

Price: Jordan 150 F9s

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) - Palesti-nians armed with sticks and stones seriously wounded a Jewish settler in Hehron on Sunday, and troops later shot and wounded three Palestimans in the area.

The unrest came on the eve of the deployment of 160 foreign observers in the town, where a Jewish settler massacred more than 30 Palestinians on Feb. 25.

Witnesses said the settler attacked was armed with an Uzi machine pistol and was directing traffic near the scene of the Feh. slaughter, Angry Palestinians finalty

set upon him. The army clamped a curfew on Hebron and Liunched a

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel agreed to hing in observers from Norway, Denmark and Italy to help protect Palesti-nians in the aftermath of the mosque massacre.

An advance guard arrived wo weeks ago, hut the full, unarmed fatce is to deploy in the coming week, Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg. Petersen announced last Thursday.

in first reports, army officials said the attacked settler had been hit in the head with

Later Israeli troops shot and wounded three Palestinians in the Hebron area, after youths

threw stones at them. In Gaza, troops facing down stone-throwers in Jabaliya refugee camp shot and seriously injured a 13-year-old boy.

Palestinian reporters said. Some 150 Jewish settlers from Gaza protested in front of the prime minister's office on Sunday, blaming the stabbiog

(Continued on page 5)

Israel and PLO resume talks aiming for accord this week

CAIRO (Agencies) - Palesti- iems remained unresolved. gan no Sunday what may be. the last week of talks before they sign an agreement on Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of

Chief Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiator Nabil Shaath told reporters that if all went well, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimoo Peres could come to Cairo later in the week to prepare for a signing ceremooy next week. Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin are expected to sign the agreement in Cairo, crowning five months of work on practical details of the self-rule plan Israel and the PLO signed in Washington last September.

Israeli ministers also said an accord on the long-delayed peace deal could be signed next week, but weighty prob-

sions today for a possible meetmg on Thursday between Peres and Arafat, boping that the signature oo the agreement will take place on the 3rd, 4th, or 5th of May," said Econo-mics Minister Shimon Shetreet (see separate story).

Mr. Peres returned to Israel

late on Saturday night from Bucharest, where be held five meetings with Mr. Arafat in an intensive effort to wrap op an accord. Mr. Peres told reporters

many misunderstandings had been eleared up and he hoped for quick agreement. But he told Israel Radio before Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting that "weighty issues" including jurisdiction of courts, telephone codes, passports and curreocy in self-rule zones were unresolved.

Another problem was over a timetable for Israel to set free the 8,400 Palestinians beld in

Israeli jails. Israel has agreed 2,500 about three weeks later. PLO delegate Mobammad Dahlan said the PLO now wanted Israel to undertake to release 2,000 more prisoners in July. The fate of the remaining 1.400 could be left to Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin to decide, he added.

In previous roonds the Israelis have refused to give a date for freeing prisoners from Hamas, which has opposed the peace talks. But Hamas has recently shown signs that it will not try to undermine an agree-

Israeli soorces said the Israeli side wanted a "security zone" 75 metres wide along the roads leading to Jewish settlements in Gaza and the PLO was arguing for a smaller zone. "We are ready. If the Israeli delegation is ready, we will announce during this session

(Continued on page 5)

House waters down By Ayman Al Safadi

Prince Hassan also stressed

Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN - The Lower House of Parliament on Sunday secured a say on the decision to introduce the second stage of the proposed sales tax and cut from 10 per cent to seven per cent the tax the government would levy on goods and services under the

The House approved its Financial Committee's recommendation to amend article 4 item B of the draft law to introduce the second stage of the sales tax five years after the first stage is implemented instead of the three years proposed by the government and have it introduced through a law instead of a Cabinet deci-

draft sales tax law.

After a lengthy debate in which more than 35 deputies, the prime minister and minister of finance participated, 32 out of 61 lawmakers present voted to cut down the proposed tax from 10 per cent to seven per cent. But the House fell into what

was described as a legal wrangle when it voted down the Financial Committee's recommendation to amend item B of article 6 to have the items exempted from the tax included in the law. Article 5 of the draft law was

endorsed by the House as amended by the Financial Committee. It imposes the tax on goods and services except those exempted by the lists attached to the draft law. But article 6 item B as pre-

sented by the government and approved by the House does not refer to any lists attached to the law and gives the gov-emment the right to specify the exempted items through reg-

The vote on article 6, described by Financial Committee Chairman Ali Abul Ragheb as the most important article in the draft law, came after a tense debate in which deputies and the government alike used political as well as

economic arguments to win support for their stands.

draft sales tax law

The House's amendments of the articles drew angry reactions from Finance Minister Sami Gammoh, who said the amendments distort the draft law which he said was meant to he part of a "reform" process. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali tried to convince de-

puties not to cut down the rate of the proposed tax by saying the government needs the revenue the tax is expected to raise to finance government spending. He also drew a connection

between Jordan's ability to repay its foreign debt and achieve self-reliance and the enforcement of the sales tax law as presented by the government.

Referring to the deputies' demands for increased services and pay rises for civil servants, Dr. Majali said the government cannot increase spending unless it secures more revenue. Mr. Abul Ragheb said the committee viewed the draft

law from financial, economic and political perspectives before making its recommendations. Had it considered the draft law from a political perspective only, the committee would have rejected it, he said. and had it studied it from a strictly financial perspective, it would have endorsed it as pre-

sented by the government. But the committee presented fair and balanced recommendations, Mr. Abul Al Ragheb told the House.

The government's losing streak in the debate over the law was reversed at the end of the session when 31 out of oil deputies present voted in favour of having the government specify the exempted items through regutations. Mr. Gammoh argued it would be uncivilised and unprecedented for Jordan to tie the hands of the government in bureaucratic procedures by including the exempted goods and services in the law.

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. consolidates Gorazde truce, evacuates wounded

SARAJEVO (Agencies) -U.N. troops began evacuating the wounded and consolidatiog a truce Sunday io Gorazde, where peacekeepers said besieging Serbs were finally pulling back as demanded by the North Atlantic Treaty Orga-

nisation (NATO).

The head of U.N. forces in the former Yugoslavia said the Bosnian Serb forces appear to bave complied with the NATO ultimatum to withdraw three kilometres from the centre of Gorazde or face air strikes. French General Bertrand de Lapresle said the Serbs were

three-kilometre line, as far as we can teil." Bosnian government radio reported two people killed and 15 wounded by Serb sniper fire during the day. There was also sporadie mortar fire and a Serb infantry attack in apparent violation of a ceasefire and the

observing a ceasefire and

"have withdrawn beyond the

NATO ultimatum. But the situation quieted as the day wore on. U.N. spokesman Major Eric Chaperon said Serbs were respecting the ceas-

Abont 200 peacekeepers began fanoing out around Gorazde after arriving late Saturday night. Another 300 peacekeepers due to arrive Snoday were held up at Sarajevo airport. It was not clear what had caused the de-

U.S. officials said Washingtoo was not pressing for NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serbs as they seem to be complying with the ultimatum to pull back from Gorazde. NATO issued an ultimatum Friday to the Serbs 10 stop the

assault or face airstrikes, and

gave them until early Suoday to pull back from the centre of "Virtually all of the ultimatum has been complied with," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in an imerview broadcast Sunday on

ABC-TV. "I think it is prudent

to give them the opportunity to withdraw." Mr. Christopher said he would go to Europe on Monday to meet with the foreign ministers of Britain and France. "We will be monitoring it very closely. We have been disappointed before," he

Gorazde, the heart of a mainly Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia, has been the target of a three-week Bosnian Serb offensive that has killed at least 710 people and wounded 1,970. The region stands in the way of Bosnian Serb goals to link up captured lands along the Serbian border.

By early Sunday evening, six U.N. helicopters had brought about 40 wounded, including several children, to Sarajevo from Gorazde.

While U.N. officials were happy to start the evacuation, they were angered by a Serb demand that the helicopters land at a Serb checkpoint while flying to and from Gorazde. "If we wait and wait, people

will be dying for lack of medical care," said Dr. Genevieve Begkoyian of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Many of the evacuees were amputees or bad serious head iojuries. The top U.N. official for former Yogoslavia, Yasusbi

Akashi, said in a statement after the 2:01 a.m. NATO deadline that the situation did oot require airstrikes despite earlier Serb shelling.
The United Nations had

(Continued on page 5)

Hamas wants self-rule share, talks with Arafat

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, are prepared to meet with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to discuss the group's participation in Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, Hamas and PLO officials said Sunday.

"We cannot say no to talks with Arafat forever. Nothing is forever --- what's the point," a senior Jordan-based member of Hamas told the Jordan Times. Speaking on condition of anonymity citing "Israeli pressures on Jordan protesting our very presence here," the Hamas official said: "I have no dates yet but the meeting will take place soon. Our boycott on talks with Arafat is about to

A Tunis-based PLO spokesman confirmed that a meeting

between Hamas and senior PLO officials and "possibly President Arafat" will take place "soon. Abbas Zaki, a member of

the Fatch Central Committee, will be among those attending the meeting.
Mr. Abbas has been Fateh's liaison with Hamas after the PLO recognised the state of

Israel in 1993.

The main framework of a "cooperatioo agreement" including Hamas participation in the Palestinian police force, administrative posts and technical committees will initially cover Gaza and not Jerieho, a member of the Palestine Cen-

tral Council (PCC) said. Hamas officials have been implying that the movement intended to participate in any elections held in the occupied territories, although it does not recognise the terms of Palesti-

nian autonomy. "Hamas in Gaza is not the

Bank," said the PCC member. "Hamas in Gaza is more realistic and the people there face greater and more severe worries. Thus they want a quiek end to the occupation,"

said the PCC member.

"Hamas in Gaza will work with

same as Hamas in the West

Fateh to try and implement the autonomy accord." Musa Abu Marzouq, head of the Damascus-based political office of Hamas broke new ground last week by calling for Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967, thus implying that Hamas is willing to recognise pre-1967 Israel.

Mr. Ahu Marzouq is from Gaza. On Sunday, Hamas tried to water down the statements made by Mr. Abu Marzoug hy saying that "at this stage we cannot liberate all of Palestine. It is illogical, but that does no! mean we will ahandon the long term goal of liberating all of

Palestine." PLO officials in Tunis and Amman, however, believe that Hamas' leaders, speciatty those in Gaza, will work together

rule work." "Those in the West Bank will also participate in the electinns, but will not work as closely with the self-governing authority as their brethren in

with the PLO to "make self-

Gaza," said a PLO official. Many in the PLO hope that Hamas will join them in their efforts to make a success of the self-governing process but

have strong reservations. "Hamas wants to have the moral high-ground amning the population and yet participate and share in the fruits of the negotiations," said the PCC

PLO officials in Tunis and Hamas officials say that the negotiations on Palestinian

(Continued on page 5)

member in Amman.

to be fenced

The Associated Press

MUSCAT - With the likely approach of Palestinian selfrule, taboos on contacts between Israelis and Gulf Arabs are falling away, and never so dramatically as during an international conference here ear-

The startling sight of Israelis sightseeing in Oman, guided by their friendly Arah hosts, was the most visible sign yet that the walls are crumbling.
"We're delighted... that the

people of the region are overcoming traditional taboos in working together to deal with problems they all face," said John H. Herbst, who led the American delegation to the

The Israelis were here for a conference on water resources in the Middle East. The conference ended last week --- but that was just the beginning.

On May 2. Qatar hosts top Israeli military brass for multilateral talks un arms control in the Middle East. And in October, Bahrain will be the venue for talks on the environment.

The so-called multilateral talks are a mere sideshow to the main Arab-Israeli peace talks that have been conducted. mainly in Washington. But once the peace process

is cemented, the region-wide talks nn economie, military and environmental issues that affect the wbole Middle East could come closer tn centre

Already, Qatar has been holding discreet, exploratory talks with the Israelis in an effort to find an outlet for its vast reserves of natural gas. The deal could be worth at

By Hala Boncompagai

Agence France Presse

BEIRUT — The Russians are

coming, so are the French. The

Germans and the Italians and a

small group of Japanese tour-

ists were seen last week visiting

the Phoenician sites in the

which contributed around 20

per cent of the country's gross

national product before the

1975-1990 civil war, is slowly

but surely making a comeback.

tourism industry are holding a

two-day conference in the

mountain resort of Beit Mery,

southeast of Beirut, starting

Monday to discuss ways of

attracting bolidaymakers as the

entire region prepares for

More than 100 people, in-

cluding delegates from Britain,

France, Germany and Austria,

will attend the Middle East

travel and tourism conference

and workshop, which is spon-sored by the Lebanese tnurism

The main goal will be to

forge an agreement between

Syria, Lebanon and Jordan to

set up a tourist circuit ahead of

the boom expected once peace is signed with Israel, tourist

role of Lebanon in the interna-

tional tourism industry. It will

put Lebanon back on the inter-

national tnurist map," said

Nasser Safieddin, director

general of the National Council of Tourism.

According to unofficial esti-

mates, around three million

This event will reinstate the

industry officials said.

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D imp International names in the

southern port of Tyre.



Yossi Beilin, who headed the team of Israelis making their first-ever official visit to a Gulf Arab state, told the Associated Press in an interview that he foresaw a good relationship.

"I dnn't believe we bave any problem with the Gulf," Mr. Beilin said. "I know they are waiting for peace between us and our neighbours, and that they are enthusiastic about the prospects of doing husiness

Mr. Beilin, a deputy foreign minister, said later upon his return to Israel that there was great potential for Israeli trade with the Gulf region.

There is the possibility that the economic ties of Israel will be much mure intensive with the Gulf states than with our (Arah) neighbouring counhe said.

Diplomatic relations as such. may not be around the corner, a point that Oman's foreign minister, Yousef Ben Alawi, stressed to Israeli journalists.

Lebanon tries to lure back

tourists, shed terror image

visitors, including businessmen

and tourists, visited Lebanon annually just before the civil

war, which was marked by

kidnappings of foreigners and

The conference will be

addressed by Deputy Secretary

General of the World Travel

Organisation Fransesco Fran-

national President John Seek-

ings, and Brian Glendinning,

chief executive of International

Travel Development, and

other top names in the field.

CNN-International as well as

American Express travel re-

lated services were meanwhile

hosting lunches and several

programmes have been set up

to acquaint the visitors with

The kind and calibre of

those attending the conference

is a simple proof of the confi-

dence the outside world has in

Lebanon," said Mr. Safieddin.

who also acts as advisor to

Tourism Minister Nicolas Fat-

But thur operators acknow-

ledge it will take years before Lehanon can fully recover its

pre-war status as the main

tourist centre in the Middle

East, pinning the recovery on a

"During the war the region

around us developed while we

regressed," said Elie Nakhal of

Since 1990 Lehanon bas

been relying mainly on tourists

coming to Beirut from Jordan

or Syria as part of a package tour. 'Before the war 100 per

cent of regional tourism was

Nakhal and Company.

post-war multi-billion recon-

Lebanon's heritage.

touche.

struction plan.

The U.S. television network

Mr. Ben Alawi said full-

fledged relations would have to wait until there were peace agreements with the Palestinians, Syria, Lehanon and Jor-

His statement assuaged the fears of those in Oman and the rest of the Arab World who worried that a key Arah bargaining chip — non-recognition of Israel — was being cast away too early. His political message spelt

out, Mr. Ben Alawi was busy bolding informal talks with Mr. Beilin on developing coopera-tion in fields vital to Oman. Those include such issues as developing and conserving wa-

ter resources and setting up a desalinatinn research centre in Muscat for the reginn. During breaks in the multilateral conference, beaming Israelis were escorted nn nne sightseeing tour after another

sea scenery, and were welcomed at banquets. The pill may not have been too hard to swallow in the Gulf.

through idyllic mountain and

The first big psychnlogical barrier came down when the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visited occupied Jerusalem in November 1977, although he was widely vilified in much of the Arab World.

The wall eroded further during the Gulf war, when Tel Aviv and Riyadh alike became targets for Iraqi Scud missiles and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker began the current peace process.

The latest breakthrnugh came with the Sept. 13 agreement for Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

done through Beirut," be said.

Mr. Nakhal is scheduled to

receive 40 groups of European

tourists each month who will

then continue their holidays in

The conference will be held

in Al Bustan Hotel, one of the

260 hotels left in Lebanon,

where 596 establishments received visitors before the war,

according to the chairman of

the hotel association, Khaled

Many of the existing hotels

need renovations. Others are

occupied by squatters and

owners are still waiting for the

government to keep a promise

to remove the illegal residents.

waterfront, including the St.

Georges which counted among

its regular har elients the

famous British spy Kim Philby,

are surrounded by a garbage

Mr. Sleiman said that dozens

of foreign delegations have vi-

sited Lebanon since the end of

the war to examine the possibi-

lities to rebuild the hotel indus-

try, including representatives of international chains.

"But if there is no peace in

He noted, however, that

the region the international

chains will not invest." he

Lebanon scored a good point

this week when the Arab

Hotels and Tourism Associa-

tion decided to move its head-

quarters from Cairo to

knows we're ready to meet the

new challenges," he said.

"It's a sign that everyone

Lebanese capital.

dump and destruction.

The five star hotels on the

Jordan or Syria.

Sleiman.

Over the next three months

Flight 103 group that represents British relatives of those who died. Mr. Swire's daughter Flora was on the New York-bound Jumbo when it blew up over Lockerbie on Dec. 21, 1988, killing all 259 passengers and 11 residents of the small Scottish town

Lockerbie

relatives

support film

GLASGOW (R) -- British re-

latives of the victims of the

1988 Lockerbie bombing are

giving their support to a con-troversial film about the attack

on Pan Am Flight 103, a

spokesman said on Saturday.

U.S. filmmaker Allan Fran-covich says bis 90-minute documentary will prove Iran responsible and show Britain

and the United States withheld

information so as to protect

strategic interests in the Mid-

"We support any investiga-tion that could uncover new

and helpful facts," said Jim Swire of the U.K. Families-

He told Scotland's Herald newspaper those with vested interests feared an investigative documentary would uncover evidence challenging the official British and U.S. view that the bombing was solely the work of two Libyan agents.

Lawyers say Britain would ban any screening of the film, intended for independent Channel 4 Television, on the grounds that the matter was under judicial consideration and therefore sub judice.

Initial funding from Libya and the multinational conglomerate Lonrho, which later suspended its backing, sparked controversy but Mr. Francovich has assured members of the Flight 103 group that he had complete editorial control. Filming has already begun.

Earlier this week a previously unknown group of relatives and friends called on Channel 4 not to show it.

We are astonished that Channel 4 would even consider purchasing a film about Lock-erbie based on material from such unreliable sources and financed by the very govern-ment suspected of having bombed P.A. 103," they said in a letter in the Herald.

But Mr. Swire said there were several loose ends in the official versions of events and francovich bad an international recurd of hard-hitting documentaries on political cover-ups.

"We would much prefer that the next step... could be a fair trial for the two accused Libyans so that it can be seen whether the evidence against them will stand," Mr. Swire said in a letter to the Herald. "Despite all efforts such a trial seems no nearer than it did twn years ago."

Council reports threats in occupied territories

AMMAN (AP) — Opponents and supporters of the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are waging a cam-paign of intimidation and threats in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a leading human rights activist reported Sunday.

Asaad Abdul Rahman, deputy secretary-general of the Jerusalem-hased Palestinain Human Rights Council, said be had received "several" complaints from residents of the occupied lands that they were threatened into changing their political stands.

The threats came from the Palestinian factions opposing and supporting the peace talks," Dr. Abdul Rahman told the Associated Press. "Opponents are intimidating people not to take part in elections to the self-rule authority, while proponents apply pressure in the other direc-

Dr. Abdul Rahman, whose group was meeting over the weekend in Amman to finalise its internal statutes, declined to elaborate. But he said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was cooperating with the human rights council in addressing the complaints.

Groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad as well as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) oppose the autonomy accord signed in Washington in Sentember. Supporters of the deal in-

cinde the Palestine People's Party, and FIDA, which is led by PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo, a breakaway from the DFLP.

The buman rights council, which includes Palestinian figures in the diaspora and inside the occupied lands, was set up in February as a watchdog to monitor respect for buman rights ahead of the implementation of the Sept. 13 autonomy accord.

The landmark agreement grants limited self-rule to the Palestinians in the occupied territories for a period of five

The PLO is expected to lead the setting up of a self-rule anthority in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho and then expand the autonomy powers of the body to the rest of the West Bank.

The accord calls for elections to a self-rule anthority not later than July 1994,

Iraq completes 'Mother of All Battles' canal

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq says it has completed the "Mother of, All Battles" urigation canal. which Shiite rebels say is designed to make southern regions more accessible to the

The state-run Iraqi News Agency (INA), monitored in Cyprus, said late Saturday that Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Al Majid informed President Saddam Hussein of the project's completion.

Also Saturday, President Saddam visited northern Iraq, where he met with clergymen from various sects and assured them "this country is as stable as God wanted it to be," the agency reported.

Mr. Majid, who is President Saddam's cousin and son-inlaw, said the canal-huilding was the fruit of a "great and extraordinary effort" by Iraqi wnrkers.

He said the 108-kilometre. waterway would bring more than 150,000 hectares of nowbarren desert land under cultivatinn.

Same 120 million cabic metres of sand were dug up to create the canal, which runs from a point south of the city of Nasiriyah to Basra, 435

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

kilometres southeast of Bagh-

Ostensibly built for irrigation, the elaborate canal system built by the Iraqis has been condemned by Western human rights groups because it seems designed to destroy the millenia-old babitat of .the 'marsh Arabs."

By draining the southern marshes, it makes the hitherto almost impenetrable area accessible to armoured divisions and helps the government in its campaign to crush the Shiite

And by diverting the Tigris. and Euphrates rivers, the canals are drying up vast tracts of reed-choked marshlands and forcing tens of thousands nf Shiites from their homes.

Iraq's Shiites from some 55 per cent of the country's 17 million population. An esti-mated 10,000 lightly armed guerrillas are holed up in the southern marshes.

On his trip to northern Iraq, President Saddam told the clergymen that the region "is returning to its correct course. and whatever you have beard from outside Iraq is finished. We have learned from our lessons and continue to build on our lessons."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Christopher to meet all GCC foreign ministers

RIYADH (AP) - U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christ. RIYADH (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has requested a meeting with all six foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alliance during his visit the Gulf Cooperation Council Mr. Christopher with the Guir Cooperation Country (Mr. Christopher will arrive for to Riyadh, GCC officials said. Mr. Christopher will arrive for to Riyadh, GCC officials said. Mr. Christopasti will arrive for a one-day visit to Saudi Arabia Tuesday after finishing talks in London with King Hussein. The GCC groups Sandi Arabia, London with King Hussein. The Octo groups saint Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arah Emirates. The group, close allies of the United States, have staunchly supported the U.S.-led Middle East peacemaking staunchly supported the Control of Knyait's liberation. staunchly supported the O.S. led Francisco peacemaking drive that began within months of Kuwait's liberation from drive that began within led the allies in driving Iraq out of Kuwait. The officials who spoke on condition they not be Ruwart. The Officials wife specific in meeting the GCC named said Mr. Christopher's interest in meeting the GCC named said Mr. Christophici a ministers the december of the give a boost to the Arab-Israeli peacemaking effort. Oman this month became the first Gulf Arab country to host Israelis at the Middle East multilateral working group on water, a parallel track to the bilateral peacemaking between Israel and parallel track to the phateral peacemaking october israel and its direct Arab neighbours. Omani officials told the Israelis however that there will be nu diplomatic ties or an end to the full boycott of Israel until the peace talks have succeeded.

Moroccan growers denounce French vandals

RABAT (R) — Moroccan fruit and vegetable exporters on Saturday denounced "irresponsible acts" by French producers who destroyed 500 tonnes of Moroccan and Spanish strawberries on April 19. The Moroccan association of fruit and the strawber of April 19. vegetable producers and exporters (ASPEM) called on the Moroccan government to take all necessary measures to ensure the security of Moroccan exports on European and in particular, the French markets." In a statement to the official news agency MAP, ASPEM said "once again, Moroccan products have been the nhject of acts of vandalism, a few days nnly after the signing of the final agreement of the Uruguay round in Marrakesh." French growers protesting imports from countries with cheap labour intercepted refrigerated trucks and emptied mure than 500 tonnes of Spanish and Moroccan strawberries onto a mntnrway in southern France near

24 militants killed in Algeria, agency says

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TUNIS (R) - Security forces in Algeria killed 24 militants in various operations over a three-day period this week, Algeria's APS news agency said late Saturday. Five civilians. including a 75-year-old woman died in the same period between Wednesday and Friday in attacks hlamed on Islamic fundamentalist militants confronting authorities. In another attack on Friday two home-made bombs caused "important damage" to the control room of a large cement plant in Meftah, about 20 kilometres south-east of Algiers, APS said quoting security sources.

Velayati: Missing Israeli not in Iran

BUCHAREST (AP) - Iran's foreign minister denied Saturday that his country is holding Ron Arad, an Israeli airman who has been missing for mure than seven years. "I categorically deny that there is any prisoner from Israel in Iran," said Ali Akbar Velayati. Mr. Velayati was asked why Iran was holding Arad prisoner by an Israeli reporter and the exchange was hypodeset on Israel's army rediction. exchange was broadcast on Israel's army radio. 'Arad, a navigator, was shot down near Sidon, Lebanon, on Oct. 16 1986. He was captured by the Shiite Muslim Amal militical There have been persistent reports he may be still alive. Israeli officials have said Arad apparently was handed over to the Iranian-controlled Hizbotlah militia in Lehanon and then taken to Iran, Iran has never admitted holding Arad or baving information on his whereabouts, Mr. Velayati was in Romania for an economic conference also attended by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Iran-Bosnia talks in Bucharest

BUCHAREST (AFP) - United Nations should be "more serious" in its handling of the situation in Bosni-Herzegovina, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayai, said Saturday after talks with his Bosnian counterpart is Bucharest, Mr. Velayati said Iran hoped the ultimanum delivered by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Friday to Bosnian Serb forces besieging Muslims in Gorazic would be "effective," and he added "we do hope that the United Nations will be mure serious in connectinn with the Bosnian situation." NATO on Friday gave Serb forces until midnight GMT Saturday to withdraw from around Gorazde or face air strikes against their positions. "We strongly condemn the slanghter of the Muslims in Gorazde by Serbs," Mr. Velayati said at a press conference after his meeting with Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankie. Iranian radio reported that Mr. Velayati told Mr. Ljubijanik that Iran was "striving to convene a meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and to speed up U.N. Security Council operations." Besides Mr. Ljnbijanik, Mr. Velayati also me his Albanian counterpart and the president of the Croatian

Vietnamese head of state to visit Iran HANOI (R) - Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh will soon

visit Iran in the highest-level official exchange between the two nil producers, the government said. A Foreign Ministry statement reported by the official Vietnam News Agenty (VNA) on Saturday did not give dates for the official friendship visit. Iranian ministers that Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manb Cam in Tehran last May that Iran, which does not currently have a stake in Vietnam's offshore oil-exploration blocks, was ready to build oil refineries and undertake oil exploration in Vietnam. No details have since emerged of possible Iranian involvement, and there was speculation in Hanoi that state oil-industry officials would accompany Anb to Tehran for follow-up talks. The French company. Total and Taiwan partners are doing feasibility studies for Vietnam's first refinery. Seninr industry executive have said a second refinery is planned but details have not been announced not tenders called for.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Le Adventuries De L'Espace
18:30 Beaumanoir
18:41 L'Ecole Des Fans
19:00 News in French
19:15 The Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Science World
20:00 News in Arabic
29:30 The Nanny
20:55 Jordanesque 21:10 Pandora' Box
21:10 Pandora' Box
22:00 News in English
22:29 Black Powder
23:10 Top Cops
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632785. St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590. Church of the Annunciation 637440.	τ

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WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

Fine weather conditions will prevai with winds northwesterly light to mod-crate. In Agaba, winds will be norther-

ly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	8
Aqaba	7
Jordan Valley	6
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man 20. Aqaba 27 Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent. Aqaba 33 per **USEFUL TELEPHONE** NUMBERS MIGHT DUTY

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AMMAN: Dr. Yousef Nasr	75174
Dr. Yousef Abdo	69481
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhaib	7600
Dr. Jamil Tarif	70471
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Ferdows pharmacy	T/833
Al Asema pharmacy	63703
Nairoukh pharmacy	62367
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Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili	(—

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Liceune Power Company 636381 RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200 HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ams	
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn	
Jabai Amman Maternity	
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	545845
Al-Mussher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhaircen	
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich	
Army, Marka	89161 L/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarga National Hospital	(09)900000
Ibn Sina Hospital	- (UY)760/32
Al Hikusa Modern Hospital	חבנטורו ניטן
RED:	INTERES
Princess Basma Hospital	(12)272275
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)212213

The Al Nafees Hospital coss Haya Hospital(03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA

This information is supplied by Roya Jordanian (RJ) information depart ment at the Ocean Airs International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

	Jeddah (RJ)	•
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11:40	Being (P.)	965
11:00	Beirut (RJ)	11:
17:45	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)	12
17:55	Cairo (RJ)	14:
19:00		20:
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Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday receives Lebanon's Minister of Technical

Education and Vocational Training Hassan Izzeddin (Petra photo)

Jordan, Lebanon discuss exchanging expertise

AMMAN (Petra) - Determined to reconstruct their country following years of civil strife, the Lebanese people are now eager to revitalise their country's vocational training programmes and exchange expertise with Jordan in this respect, said Lebanon's Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training, Hassan Izzeddin.

Speaking at a meeting with Labour Minister Khaled Ghzawi, the Lebanese minister said that Jordan with its vast experience in vocational training can provide excellent expertise to

Lebanon firmly believes in the benefits of pan-Arab coop-eration in various fields and in

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collective efforts to confront common dangers, said Dr.

Jordan's minister voiced the Kingdom's readiness to cooperate with Lebanon in technical education and vocational training and also in labour-related affairs and organisiog the labour market.

Vocational Training Cor-poration (VTC) Director General Ahmad Atwan outlined to the Lebanese minister the vocational programmes in Jordan and the VTC's cooperation with local industries.

The government will shortly endorse a draft law organising trades, which, Dr. Atwan said, would help organise the employment of at least 800,000 workers employed by 15,000 businesses in Jordan. Nabil Naqaash, adviser to

the Lebanese minister, outlined Lebanon's experiences in vocational training and its drive to raise to 70 per cent the rate of students joining vocational programmes, to meet the eountry's requirements for skilled labour.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali received Dr. Izzeddin in his office and reviewed with him scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Lebanon in educational fields.

Dr. Izzeddin earlier visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and was briefed by its president, Hani Mulki, on its programmes.



China is intent on contributing to Mideast peace — visiting team

AMMAN (Petra) - China is of the peace efforts, serving as intent on contributing to the success of the Middle East peace process in a minner that would ensure the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people aid the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the head of a visiting parliamentary delegation from China announced here Sun-

Wang Chao Chu, who was speaking at a neeting with Speaker of the Urper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi, said China considers the mutual recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel as constituting one of the main positive outcomes

a turning point towards peaceful co-existence between the peoples of this region.

Mr. Chu, who started a several-day visit to Jordan Sunday, said China, a permanent U.N. Security Council member, was keen on promoting the peace process and also on participating in the five working groups in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process, stressing that Peking would pursue its efforts through the world community to fulfill the objectives of this

Mr. Chu said he hoped his visit would further strengthen China's already excellent ties

with the Kingdom.

He said China views Jordan's achievements in the economic fields with respect and attributes these gains to the Kingdom's well-balanced policies at all levels and its commitment to a just and durable

Mr. Chu and his delegation were briefed by Mr. Lawzi on Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East issue. During their stay here the

Chinese team will visit archaeological and touristic

Senators Abdullah Salah, Kamel Abu Jaber, and Amer Khammash were at the airport to welcome the delegation.

Cement company to hire firms for permanent services

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the second half of this year the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) plans to conclude contracts with international consultancy and cement processing companies to provide permanent ser-vices to the company and training for its workers, according to an announcement Sunday by JCFC Board Chairman Mohammad Saeed Abu Nowar.

Speaking after a meeting at the company's offices in Fuheis to discuss JCFC's

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Nine marble

factory employees in Amman who on Saturday suffered a

mild form of food poisoning

left hospital the same evening

and are back at their jobs,

according to factory and hos-

The nine men, aged 16 to

30, were reported to have

been complaining of vomiting

and diarrhoea, and were tre-ated at the Jordan Red Cross

They were discharged after being placed under observa-

tion, a hospital official told

According to the report, the men had eaten white

cheese and falafel for hreak-

fast from a restaurant nearby

started feeling sick and some started vomiting." a factory

"An hour later, the men

According to the hospital

official, samples of the food

are being tested at the bospit-

al to determine what kind of

bacteria caused the poison-

ing.
"All nine employees have

returned to work and are

reported in good condition,

Three people die

in separate accidents

A 30-year-old Irbid woman

the factory official said.

the Jordan Times.

pital officials.

Hospital.

the factory.

official said.

released from hospital

programmes and plans, Mr. Abu Nowar said the company is currently working on plans to ensure permanent control over the production lines and

maintenance of equipment. Referring to plans to control dust and smoke pollution resulting from the extraction processes, Mr. Abu Nowar said the that JCFC last month concluded contracts with German and Danish firms to provide equipment and to implement a programme to control these pullutants. He said this programme is due to start

M.Z.M., was discovered by her husband who told police

that when he returned home from work, his wife was lying

near the washing machine. He said his wife was

laundering and apparently re-

ceived an electric shock from

The woman was rushed to

The attending doctor at the

Police investigations attri-

In Amman, an 11-year-old

girl Saturday was rushed to

Al Bashir Hospital after

being hit by a bus driven by a

man identified only as S.M.M. The girl died later as a result of her wounds.

A police report said the ehild, identified as K.B.J.,

was crossing a street with her

14-year-old sister when they

were struck down. Hospital

reports said the sister is in

driver for not yielding to

man, a 58-year-old man was

killed when the car he was

driving went out of control

and struck a light pole.
The report said, Ahmad Z.

had been driving his car on Sarh Al Shahid Road. He

was killed instantly on im-

· Ahmad's son, who was in

Police have arrested the

Also on Saturday in Am-

serious condition.

pedestrians.

buted the fatal accident to a

short circuit in the washer.

Princess Basma Hospital, but

was declared dead on arrival.

hospital said the woman died

of an electric shock.

the washer.

in the second half of 1994. The programme is designed to address pollution problems inside the factories themselves and in the surrounding areas of Fuheis,

Hummar and Mahes, Mr.

Abu Nowar added. The meeting was chaired by Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf who stressed the government's concern to safeguard the en-vironment in the Kingdom. Dr. Khalaf said the govern-

ment would like to see the company's level of operations

competing with the world's best industrial plants and at the same time safeguard the country's environment in line with the National Strategy on the Environment.

The minister suggested that a meeting by all con-cerned parties be held regulativ every four months to follow up on measures used to ensure safeguards against pollution and monitor the company's plans for 1994-

Among those attending Sunday's meeting was Fuhers Mayor Jamal Flattar who voiced the town's complaintagainst the continued die? problem stemming from the company's operations.

According to Mr. Abu Nowar, the JCFC produced 4.5 million tonnes of sement between 1990 and 1993; two million of which went for local consumption in 1992

Last menth, Mr. Abu-Nowar said, the factories which were set up in 1951 were producing 5.700 tonnes. of cement per day



Researchers and experts from several countries on Suoday attend an Amnian conference on

Nursing conference opens at JUST

RAMTHA (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday said nursing has shifted from a supporting role to a

full-participant role.

Addressing the Third Inter-oational Conference on Nursing in the Middle East on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday, the minister said a qualified nurse has become the cornerstone of the efficient health care system.

Dr. Malhas stressed tha. his ministry directs special attention to the nursing profession, which he described as a vital and major component of the nation's medical team.

He said the conference provides a unique opportunity for

the exchange of expertise and building bridges of coopera-

The nursing science has advanced tremendously over the last years, Dr. Malhas added. Also addressing the confer-ence was Kamel Ajlouni, pres-

ident of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), who reviewed the conference's objectives.

The two-day conference, which is organised by JUST's Faculty of Medicin well discuss 75 scientific reliated papers on teaching nursing in Jordan Taking part in the conference. dan. Taking part in the conference are researchers and nurs-ing experts from the U.S., Canada, Australia, Sweden,

Greece, Iraq, Iran, Sandi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oatar and Jordan.

Dr. Malhas met with Dr Ajlouni and reviewed with him: scopes of cooperation between the ministry and the university in the held of doctors training Also Sunday Dr. Malhas vi-

sited Princess Badi'a Hospital in libid and was briefed by its director, Farouq Al Hmoud. on the services provided by the hospital. The minister also inspecied the various sections of the hospital and met Director of the Irbid Health Department Abdul Hafez Al Moumant and the hospital directory

died Saturday of electrocum, the same car when the acci-tion, a police report said: dent occurred, was listed in The victim, identified as a good condition. Ashrawi warns Palestinian self-rule could become 'tool for Israel's will' WHAT'S GOING ON

Special to the Jordan Times

A Ballet performance (Swan Lake, Bolero, Romeo and Juliet) at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

☆ Film in French entitled "Tous Les Matins Du Monde" at

the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

DRAMA

☆ Drams in Arabic entitled "So That The Children Will Not Grow Up" at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel.)

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

A one-hour show of a videotaped variety of classical music at the student multi-purpose building at the University of Jordan (12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

A Exhibition of women's home-made products (including ceramics, sweets and handicrafts) at the Royal Cultural AMMAN - A leading Palestinian human rights activist has warned that the Palestinian interim authority might become a "tool for Israel's will" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Hanan Ashrawi, the woman who made headline news as spokesperson for the

Palestinian delegation to the Madrid Mideast peace talks in 1991, however, said that only a democratic, pluralistic Palestinian entity was a guarantee against this hap-This is why Dr. Ashrawi.

who until September last year was a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks with Israel, is launching with other West Bank activists the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights (PICCR).

A leading member of the PICCR. Dr. Ashrawi said she hoped the commission will enhance democratic practices in the future Palestinian state and will monitor the work of its leadership.
Ther PICCR, which held

its first meeting in February this year, is striving to act as an ombudsman (diwan mathalem: court of grievances) in a democratic Palestinian state. Grouping leading Palestinian figures. the commission aspires to ensure the rule of law, the establishmens of legal structures, proposing and reviewing legislation aimed at protecting citizens' basic rights and freedoms and monitoring the work of the Palestinian national authority to ensure no abuse of authority or misuse of public rights.

"Democracy and human rights have become one of the latest fashions." Dr. Ashrawi said during a lecture at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Saturday. Asked whether the future Palestinian state would adopt the model of 'Arab democracy' or that of 'Western democracy', she said: "Real democracy can materialise if dialogue and discussion among the different political groupings is enhanced."

According to the promin-ent activist, the Palestinian people are ready and have the capacities and the capabilities to practise democracy in the future Palestinian state.



Hanan Ashrawl

The commission, she said, is aiready making preparations to ensure "free and fair elections" to the Palestinian council set for July.

After elections, she said,

the commission's task will be to monitor and investigate the new authority's practices to make sure they conform to human rights and democratic

"The leadership, elected by the people, will be directly subjected to criticism and questioning in a way it had never been questioned be-fore, Ms. Ashrawi said.

The commission, which will have financial and administrative independence, will also be entrusted with the task of raising awareness among the public of their rights and duties in their (ature state "We want to promote

democracy, encourage dialogue and institutional and cultural pluralism so as to prevent the authority from being transformed into a tool to implement the Israeli authority or an instrument to be used to saleguard Israel's security," she said.

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY

in Amman, Jordan, has the sad duty to announce the death on April 22, 1994, of former President of the United States

RICHARD MILHOUS NIXON

The embassy will open a condolence book for signature in the USIS lobby at the embassy, April 25-28, 1994, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. May God rest the soul of the departed and

grant comfort to his family

Unions strike back at criticism of price-setting practices Ayyash said "the crux of the

By Natisha Bukhari Special to he Jordan Times

AMMAN + Representatives of the Jorganian doctors and engineers amions JDU and JEU) struck back at a local columnists criticism of their organisations' fee-setting practices saying that the author southt to undermine their efforts as professionals.

The mionists said their main edicern is to provide quality work to boost the countrys economy and serve its citizens with a "clear conscience." Unions' roles in Jordat have assumed priority among observers, who are divided into two categories: Those that support political worl within unions, and those that think onions' prime role is to secure fair treament for labourers, professionals and consumers.

According to Fahed Farek, an economist and polical analyst, a major issue about unions has been ignated.

It an article published Saturday in Al-Ra'i daily, Dr. Fanek criticised unions "minopoly" of prices set by diferent unions for their menbers' services. He consides this price-setting issue jus as important as the controversial issue of union's

political activities. .The engineers' union is an

example of a cartel for monopolising service ebarges, especially that citizens have no other choice and are legally obliged to turn to engineers for constructing their houses," charged Dr. Fanek.

He accused Jordan's engineers and doctors unioos of exploiting the consumer and described the relationship between consumers and onionists as incompatible. Engineers for example, form one body which is protected hy its union; citizens seeking services, however, are under the mercy of the unified body, Dr. Fanck said.

Ishaq Maraqa, director of the Jordanian Doctors' Union accused Dr. Fanek of not getting his facts straight. Dr. Maraqa told the Jordan Times that doctors' service fees have been set by repre-sentatives of different associations in the country to ensure fair treatment to all.

"The price list was formed upon consultations with 150 doctors, the Consumer Protection Society (CPS) and the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

In his article, Dr. Fanek said that both the JDU and the JEU services price lists specify minimum fees, but ignore maximum ebarges, which, he said, gives the professionals leeway to monopolise prices and exposes

consumers to the greed of some people. He added that prices should have been set by a neutral party, which is the government.

Dr. Maraga countered that before accusing the JDU of being a cartel, Dr. Fanek should have "bothered to pick up the phone and in-quire about the procedures that went into pricing." He added that such an action would have prevented the economist (Dr. Fanek) from falling into the "trap of proiection." Dr. Maraga pointed to the minimum and maximum fees for doctors' services, which, he said, have been set by the union to avoid any possible abuse of authority.

"This measure was taken to ensure that all citizens, poor or rich, get access to medical treatment, and, at the same time, provide doctors with a fair space for honest competition," stressed Dr. Maraga.

"As for the accusations of some," added Dr. Maraga, "I would like to say that it is unreasonable to look at elinics and hospitals as if they were grocery markets, where people haggle for cheaper prices. The nature of our profession, he added, "takes oo a much more humanitarian view of things."

Ibrahim Abu Ayyash, an engineer, told the Jordan Times that engineers, like any other professionals, look out for the country's best interests. "We too would like to con-

tribute in improving the country's economy, and the setting of minimum fees by the unioo is one way of secur-ing that aim," said Mr. Abu Ayyash. As for maximum fees, Mr. Ayyash stressed that it was

important not to confine an engineer's quality of work by the inflexible setting of maximum fees. According to Mr. Ahn Ayyash, if an engineer is paid properly, he will be able to produce good quality work, which explains the union's inability to set max-imum fees for engineers' services, he added.

Unlike doctors, engineers need a more flexible attitude towards price setting because quality of materials and their costs vary tremendously, and the choice of the cost of a project would be left to the consumer, said Mr. Ahu Ayyash. The JEU ensures, howev-

er, that proper work is

granted to all citizens by set-

ting minimum fees which

oblige any eogineer to per-

form within the limit of the

consumer's hudget. Mr. Ahu

contingent upon the financing provided." According to the engineer, monopoly is out of the ques-tion because an engineer is assessed by the quality of his or her work rather than by how much be or she charges. "Any reputable engineer got

his reputation through good

work; moreover the nature of

the job required by consum-

ers dictates the choice of the engineering firm," he said

adding that there are big

matter is that engineers do

their job if they are paid, and

the extravagance of the job is

offices that have large teams that specialise in huge proects while other smaller firms cater to less sophisticated projects. He said all firms start on a small scale and expand after gaining experience and proving their efficiency, which in turn establishes their public

reputation. "It is a matter of trust: people come to you if they trust your work," said Mr. Abu Ayyash explaining the competitive nature of his pro-

Dr. Maraga urged Dr. Fanck to carefully study any issue before "hurling accusations," io order to establish constructive rather than destructive crincism.

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Israeli claims face challenge

ISRAEL WILL have a lot of explaining to do when it appears before the Committee Against Torture this week in Geneva. After acceeding to the International Convention Against Torture, the Israeli government is dutybound to suhmit periodic reports on how it is meeting its treaty obligations under the convention. What could be really embarassing to the Israeli delegation is the wealth of evidence accumulated by the U.N. and several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) about the

extent of the Israeli torture of Palestinian detainees. Amnesty International, the most credible and influential international organisation that monitors human rights violations worldwide, has already incriminated the Jewish state as resorting to "sys-

tematic torture or ill-treatment of detainees." "Thousands of detainees are arrested and held on security grounds every year in Israel and the occupied territories and most are subjected to methods of interrogation amounting to torture or ill-treatment," AI has said in a statement issued on the eve of the committee session to review the Israeli situation. Recent revelations proved beyond doubt that in Israel there are in place secret security guidelines for interrogation which, according to Israeli military confessions, allow "a moderate degree of physical pressure." Amnesty, however, concluded that "either the official guidelines for interrogation ultimately endorse torture or illtreatment, or Israeli officials have extensively

violated such guidelines with impunity." There is no doubt that on the strength of the overwhelming incriminating evidence against Israel, the international human rights body concerned with the implementation of the torture treaty will find it guilty as charged by the international community. Such a projected finding by the tenmember body will make a mockery of Israel's persistent claims that it is the only democracy in the Middle East and the only state that adheres

faithfully to international human rights standards. The wider examination of the Israeli human rights record will have another airing when the Human Rights Committee charged with the mandate of monitoring the application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) will consider the Israeli report on these wider and comprehensive aspects of human rights when it meets again in the summer. All in all, 1994 could prove to be a watershed for Israel's human rights record as it continues to be put before several human rights panels for scrutiny and judgment. The Israeli government can be effectively silenced on its claims that it is a beacon of light in a sea of darkness. No doubt this realisation would have a bearing on the peace process as the Arab side could now press on harder than ever with its assertion that Israeli practices and policies are not exactly what the Jewish state claims them to be.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily warned that any pressure on Jordan will not help the cause of a just and durable peace. and the continuation of the siege on Aqaba can only deepen the sufferings of the Jordanian people and cause them further economic losses. Taher Al Adwan said that Jordan's demands that the siege end is not a mere tactical move but rather a principled stand since this siege is considered an infringement on the country's sovereignty. The time has come, said the writer, for Washington to realise that there is need to end the injustice so that the peace process can gain credibility in the eyes of the Jordanian people. Since Jordan announced that it was linking its participation in the peace process to the lifting of the siege on Aqaba, no official statement came out from Washington about ending the blockade with the exception of the U.S. secretary of State's announcement that the U.S. was keen on maintaining strong relations with Jordan. said the writer. It would be really disappointing for us if the U.S. secretary, who is shortly coming to the country, failed to bring with him plans for ending the harassment of shipping and the interception of Aqaba-bound vessels, added the writer. Any delay in ending the siege, warned the writer, would only mean that it is meant to destroy the Jordanian economy and weaken the Jordanian negotiating stand.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily Sunday criticised the Israeli government for not backing its words with deeds. Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement that he would pull out Israeli forces from the Golan Heights and end the settlements in the occupied territories in exchange for peace with Arabs, the paper said that nothing has materialised on the ground. On the contrary, it said, the Israelis continue their manoeuvres and procrastinations at the negotiating table, especially with the Palestinians and are no showing any willingness to end their occupation of Arab land. The paper said that Mr. Rabin's latest statement about intentions to end the settlements was aimed at Warren Christopher, the U.S. Secretary of State, prior to his visit to the Middle East. Definitely the statement bears no significance and would not help Mr. Christopher's mission, said the paper. It is not enough for Israel to express by mere words that it would end the occupation because the Arabs continue to witness otherwise, added the paper.

By Nicholas Doughty

BRUSSELS - With the most far-reaching decision so far on using air strikes to try to force an end to the war in Bosnia, NATO has raised the stakes in a dangerous game of poker with the Serbs.

But, despite its military might, the alliance knows that it may not hold the best

Since NATO first threatened the use of air power last August to stop the shelling of Sarajevo, the alliance has been drawn into ever greater involvement in the two-year conflict.

Threats have sometimes worked, as when NATO gave the Serbs 10 days in February to withdraw their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo or hand them over to U.N. forces, the Serbs complied and there were no

NATO strikes. But, more recently, the Serbs have tested NATO's resolve to the limit, apparent-ly gambling that Western leaders were reluctant to get more involved because of the

The Serbs sent attack planes to bomb a Muslim munitions factory in February, in clear violation of a U.N. ban on flights over Bos-nia which NATO has been enforcing. U.S. fighters blasted four of the Serb planes out of the sky.

their amention to Gorazde. NATO used air strikes twice to protect U.N. personnel trapped in the town.

The result was that aid workers and others were taken hostage by the Serbs,

When the Serbs turned

Russia repeated its opposition to air strikes and the attacks on Gorazde continued. "The Serbs have called our bluff and now we have to play

to the very end," said one NATO diplomat. "This is the

YOU AND WHO'S

NATO reaches endgame with Bosnian Serbs

If it is a poker game, both

OH YEAH?

players hold some good NATO's latest decision to set a deadline for the withdrawal of Serb forces from Gorazde and to threaten immediate air strikes if Gorazde or any other U.N.-designated "safe area" is arracked gives the military much wider pow-

ers for strikes.

The threat of massive attacks from the air, the alliance hopes, will make the Serbs comply because they could otherwise risk losing much of their offensive milit-

ary might.

NATO officials say the fact
that the alliance has already
"crossed the rubicon" and used force in Bosnia should help persuade the Serbs that this is no bluff,

NATO's credibility, already damaged by the West's sluggish response to the war and previous divisions among the allies over policy on Bosnia, is also at

On the other side of the table, the Serbs can count several factors in their

They know, as does NATO's military, that air power has limits, especially in the hilly, wooded terrain of Bosnia.

Not only are targets difficult to hit, there is also the risk of killing civilians caught up in the fighting, something that could turn Western public opinion against further ac-

In addition, air power can-not take and hold ground against an attacker.

Peacekeepers in Bosnia are lightly-armed and, despite calls from the U.N. for more to be deployed, the West has no desire to commit ground forces to any action.

Step hy step we may be dragged into a land war which would be by modern standards a tragedy much ereater than, we have seen in Bosnia," Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou said on Friday, echoing the fears of most Western leaders.

That means the Serbs still have the option of launching retaliatory attacks against U.N. peacekeepers or of taking aid workers hostage if there are NATO strikes, since there will be no allied ground force there to protect

NATO says that any air strikes are not designed to end the war by military means but are intended to force the Serbs back to negotiatiog a wider peace settle-

But that also presents a

problem. Alliance diplomats say that, whatever the Western rhetoric, the firm perception in Belgrade and among the Bosnian Serbs is that NATO and the United Nations bave now taken sides in the war and that there may be little

desire to negotiate as a result. Until now, the Serbs have also been able to play the "Russian card" relying on Moscow's strong opposition to NATO action. The West is already worried about Russia's more hardline foreign policy and has been careful to try and coordinate the latest moves with Moscow.

So far, it appears to have paid off and deprived the Serbs of one of their advan-

Russian Poreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said on Saturday he supported NATO's threat to launch air strikes unless the Serbs stop their attacks on Gorazde.

By Dr. James Zogby Washington Watch

Dangerous currents in Virginia Senate race

ONE OF the most unusual elections in recent U.S. history is unfolding this year in the

state of Virginia. Virginia is one of the original 13 colonies that made the United States. Its people are proud of their traditions and their political history. Four of the U.S. first five presidents came from Virginia: George Washington, Thomas Jeffer-son, James Madison and James Monroe. And it was, in part the traditions that were inherited from these "founding

fathers" that made politics in

Virginia a "gentlemanly art." It is this proud history that makes many Virginians so upser about this year's Senatorial election. The incumbent is a Democratic Senator who has admitted to numerous sexual affairs, has been accused of attending parties where drugs were used, and his aides have been convicted of wiretapping the phones and taping the conversations of his political opponents. His leading Republican challenger is an admitted liar and was indicated as one of the major figures behind the Iran-Contra scandal. And possibly complicating the race are hints of an independent challenge by a former governor who has repeatedly been accused of self-promotion and meanspirited political infighting in

an effort to discredit his opponents. This three ring circus has Virginians embarrassed and somewhat bewildered. One Virginia political analyst said, you would almost think that God is punishing us for past

But what makes this race so noteworthy, however, is not how poor the choices are for Virginia's voters, but how the candidates and the election itself are symptomatic of some roubling trends that are undermining U.S. electoral politics.

The incumbent. Democratic

Senator Chuck Robb, was not

always the embarrassment

sins by giving us the worst

choices in history."

some feel he has become. He was, not too many years ago, a rising star in American politics. He was a well-decorated soldier, and was married at a young age in a White House ceremony to Lynda Bird Johnson, the daughter of thenpresident Lyndon Johnson. Just 10 years later he won his first election as lieutenant governor of the state of Virginia. and four years after that he won election as governor. His tenure in office was extremely successful: He improved the late's educational system and added significantly to Virginia's economic growth. He was so popular when he left office that when ran for Senate four

years later, the incumbent Re-

publican resigned rather than face a certain defeat. In that 1988 Senate election Mr. Robb won by an astounding 71-29 per cent margin and became the biggest Democratic vote-

getter in Virginia's history. He became a leader in the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), the prestigious group that served as the springboard for Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign. (In fact, in 1992 many speculated that if Mr. Clinton did not run, Mr. Robb would have been the DLC's choice for president.) He also served successfully as Chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, the group charged with

raising money to help elect Democrats to the U.S. Sen-How is it that this illustrious Senator has fallen from a more than 2-1 victory to the highest unfavourable rating of any sitting U.S. Senator? The answer lies in a number of factors involving both the dangers that politics presents to the egos of those who enter its snare, and the workings of the U.S. press which will leave no stone of a politician's personal life un-

Early in Mr. Robb's political career he apparently was captured by the lure of personal power and ego-gratification. He is not the first politician to fall prey to such personal excesses. But, in part because he was so successful, and in part because his image was so clean - his political foes used every negative revelation about him to discredit Mr. Robb with the press. When the press caught hold of the stories about sex and drugs in the Senator's early political career, they ran non-stop investigation and exposés about his behaviour. The

effect has been to bring the Senator's reputation to ruin. But while Mr. Robb's poll ratings are at an all-time low. he retains an enormous warchest of campaign funds (as much as \$2 million), which is enough 10 scare off most serious Democratic opponents who might challenge him.

Mr. Robb does have two opponents in this year's Democratic primary - a female attorney who has very little name recognition and a littleknown populist state Senator from the sparsely populated southern part of the state. Since his opponents will orobably not have the money needed to run an effective state-wide campaign. they probably have little chance of defeating him. So despite the lack of strong sentiment behind him, Mr. Robb is likely to emerge as the Democratic candidate in the November

On the Republican side. Mr.

Robb's main challenger is Oliver North.

Mr. North, it will be recalled, was the star of the Iran-Contra hearings in the U.S. Senate. He was the Reagan administration National Security Council aide who admitted to illegally funnelling money to the Nicaraguan Contra movement, who admined to lying to Congress about his involvement in the affair, and who admitted to illegally diverting some of the funds he raised for his own personal use.

Nevertheless, it is his very act of defiance in the face of Congress that bas made him. for some, a national hero, and a star of the far right of American politics. In the years since the hearings. Mr. North has been on the national lecture circuit and has established a number of fundraising groups that have raised \$25 million to support right wing causes — all of which are controlled by Mr. North. It is this national donor network that Mr. North is tapping to fund his Senate race.

for which he believes he will raise \$15 million. Mainstream Republicans are dismayed by the prospect of Mr. North representing their party in the Senate. Virginia's senior Senator, Republican John Warner, has gone so far as to say that he would not support Mr. North if he becomes the party's nominee to challenge Mr. Robb in Novem-

And in an unprecedented move, former President Ronald Reagan has written a letter to Virginia Republicans declaring Mr. North to be a liar. In the letter, Mr. Reagan also indirectly supports Mr. North's little-known opponent. James Miller, who also served as an official in the Reagan

Virginia Republican politics has increasingly come to be dominated by the fundamentalist Christian right wing. In the Republican Parly's convention, where the Republican nomination will be decided, these fundamentalist activists have gained the upper hand. They are a small but committed group and they sup-port Oliver North. So with big money 1\$3 million raised to date) and a core of committed supporters, it looks as if Mr.

administration.

credible independent candidate would enter the race.

lieutenant governor, and in

North may well be Mr. Robb's

So disenchanted are Virgi-

nia's voters with the prospect

of a Robb-North race. A re-

cent poll showed almost 70 per

cent of them hoping that a

opponent in November.

Enter Doug Wilder Mr. Wilder was Mr. Robb's

1988 was elected to succeed him as governor. In so doing he became the nation's first African-American governor a matter of pride for Virginia and the nation. But Mr. Wilder's political actions in his four years in office exposed his weaknesses for self-promotion and political infighting. He has been one of Mr. Robb's most bitter antagonists. As a result of his behaviour, he has the distinction of being one of the only Virginia politicians with a lower approval rating than Chuck Robb. Yet despite all that, he continues to send signs that he may run as an independent in November, challenging

both Mr. Robb and Mr. North. To complicate matters even further, a group of Virginia Republicans is so concerned about Mr. North representing their party that they are putting time and money into preparing the ground for an independent bid by Marshall Cole-

Mr. Wilder defeated Mr.

Coleman in the governor's race

four years ago, but the margin was razor-close Mr. Coleman has not announced his intentions, but he is aware of what the group of Republicans are doing on his behalf and hasn't asked them to stop. In a potential four-way race, African-Americans will tend to support Mr. Wilder, the Christian far right will support Mr. North. Moderate Republicans will tend to support Mr.

Coleman's independent bid

and a core of Democratic vo-

ters will support Mr. Robb.

The outcome is anyone's

guess. But what is certain is

that this year's Virginia Senate

race will be both unusual and a lesson on the dangerous currents at work in U.S. politics. These dangerous currents are extremely visible in this race. First, there is the pervasive role that big money has come to play in the system. It has reached the point where money has a greater ability to influence elections than do political parties with their mil-

lions of members.

to play such a large role in determining the public perception of a politician. The third dangerous current is the influence of the religious right wing in American politics. The danger does not stem so much from the fact that the group is trying to bring religious ideas into politics, but in

The second dangerous cur-

rent is the ability of the media

The writer is president of the Washington based Arab-

the fact that the ideology of the

Christian right is so very in-

tolerant and exclusive.

LETTERS

Setting the record straight

To the Editor:

IN REFERENCE to your news in brief (Jordan Times April 23), concerning the prime minister's visit to Alia Hotel on Friday, I wish to bring to your attention that the prime minister's visit was confined to the hotel were he inspected the services provided for RJ passengers and other airlines crews and not to the international airport as mentioned in your story.

> Dr. Nazih Dabbas, General Manager Alia Hotel.

Amman.

To the Editor: READING a report in the Jordan Times (April 13, page 3) about an official visit to Jordan by a foreign dignitary, we were surprised at the Petra news agency's reference to the ancient

city of Jerash as a uniquely "Roman" one. According to history, Jerash was founded by the generals of Alexander the Great in the 4th century B.C. After two centuries of Hellenistic (Greek) culture and civilisation, the city was taken by the Romans. In the 4th century A.D., the city became part of the Byzantine state. In 636 A.D., the entire region (including Jerash) came under Arab sovereignty. Consequently, the Roman presence in erash cannot be disputed, but only as a successor to a previous Hellenic

Hellenic culture and Greek language were an integral part of the Levantine region for over 3,000 years They have been responsible for some of the greatest civilisation to exist there. They are part of Arabia. This fact should always be mentioned when describing the ancient Decapolis cities or the church

> Theodoros N. Pantzaris, Ambassado: of Greece,

Safe in Jordan

mosaics in Jordan.

ONE WEDNESDAY afternoon, during the spring vacation, our science teacher, Mrs. Knittle, was driving around the sixth circle when the clutch in her car suddenly broke down! She said that she pulled over to the side with ber baby, and shortly afterwords, two policemen stopped to assist her. One policeman pulled out a tool box, crawled under her car and fixed the clutch while the other took the baby. Shara, who was crying

by then, and walked her up and down the road until lie was The incident comes at a time when stories of cruelty gainst foreigners by Jordanians are influencing Western views It is a reminder of the safe environment of Jordan. Unfortulately. the only stories most people hear about concerning Arps are the ones about violence. Mrs. Knittle's story is a proc that Arabs in general are very kind people with a great love or the family, and great respect for mothers. The incident shoul also remind all of us of the security Jordan provides peoplewith.

Scorpion Tales,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters inteded for publication, however, should contain the writer's full some and preferably address as well. Names can be withheldpnly upon request and under special circumstances. Letter are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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Human Rights File

Towards a Jordanian prize for human rights

By Waleed Sadi

WITH THE talks about human rights picking up momentum worldwide at an accelerated speed, we in Jordan have also joined the hnman rights bandwagon and started to treat the subject as a high priority issue. There is hardly a human rights coovention that we have oot signed and ratified and in this process signaling ont commitment to pursue human rights concerns on several fronts with maximum diligence. I have suggested on an earlier occasioo the creation of a human rights. high post for human rights in a bid to make coherent our international obligations under the various treaties to which we have become parties. There is an apparent confusion in the country on where we stand on many ur-geot human rights fronts,

something that would call for a human rights strategy established oo solid grounds Human rights has become a specialised field and there is a considerable international jurisprudence on the subject that need to be considered before any country can expect to develop its own posture on the multiplying dimensions of human rights. How the international fora on human rights function and how they are related to one another is even confusiog to all of us who were part of this international human rights labyrinth.

The more I think about his subject the more I am convinced that establishing a local homan rights prize would oot only give recognition to those who have cootributed substantially and meaningfully to the human rights cause but would also help us focus better on how best to advance the cause locally. I therefore, humbly propose the name of HRH Prince Raad Ben Zeid as the first recipient of the national human rights prize.

When one consider all the magnificent work that Prince Raad has performed locally to help out the handicaps and poor of the country in a manner which remained essentially silent and behind the scenes, one begins to get a glimpse of his outstanding humanistic character. Prince Raad could have chosen the easier path and dealt with

public and state issues and concerns on the highest level. Instead, he chose to work directly with the most unfortunate amongst us, people who seldom receive even the attention of the most junior officials. Prince Raad broke new grounds when it comes to the deafs, blind and muted by personally taking a deep interest io their welfare. What better way to promote human rights than by standing firm and compassionate next to those of us who are the most needy of their basic

I have known Prince Raad for over a quarter of a century and he has always displayed an exemplary sense of devotion to the deprived and handicap. What better way to show appreciation and bestow recognition on Prince Raad for all the wonderful work he has done in the coontry than by according him the Jordanian human rights prize for 1994. Such a step would encourage more Jordanians from all walks of life to also cootribote meaningfully to the cause of human rights. This also could serve as the best evidence yet that our country is doubly serious aboot the basic among them and down the road to other complimentary ones. This way the world would then have a concrete occasion to guage the depth of the Kingdom's commitment to human rights in matters that count most.

There is a tendency worldwide to accord the political and civil rights of individuals high priority consideration at the expense of other basic human rights. It has been said over and over that the right to life comes ahead of all other aspects of human rights because without the right to life secured there can be no opportunity to enjoy these other human rights. The point of departure for any nation in pursuit of homan rights must therefore be respect and protection of the right to life, beginning with the most unfortonate amongst us. What better way to begin this process than by

By Paisiey Dodds The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG - Builet-proof vests are selling out. pagers never stop beeping, hotels are packed and cellular phones are part of the dress code.

Less than a week before South Africa's first democratic election, the media have converged on the country with a frenzy not seen since African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela's release from prison in

But as thousands of correspondents trade their souls for pondents trade their sours for beepers and a chance for bylines in history, they're learning paradise doesn't come without pandemonium. More than 760 foreign cor-

respondents have been issued. temporary accreditation since February to cover the April 26-28 vote, and a total of up to 3,000 are expected to plant their inquisitive feet in the next four weeks.

The numbers aren't surprising considering the story, it will be the first time South Africa's black majority has been able to vote, and Mr. Mandela, once the world's most famous political prison-er, is expected to become the country's first black presi-

But outside the perks of cellolar phones, executive apartments and fast cars lies Third World coofusion, grueling work and deadly conditions.

"After working through the Gorbachev revolution, I thought I was prepared for South Africa, but reality is different once you're on the ground," said Trevorh fishlock of the Sunday Times of

This type of ground reality includes waking up at 5 a.m. to track Mr. Mandela's campaign tour; getting lost in desolate rural areas where cellular phones don't work; fighting crushing crowds at disorganised campaign rallies

DANGEROUS ENCOUNTERS: Journalists are advised to stay away from public railies where they could be the target of violence (AFP photo)

Media storm as elections near

where stampedes have killed

at least three people.
"We're really concerned about the numbers of journalists flocking down here," said Paddi Clay from the Sonth African Union of Journalists, which represents local media.

"When you have a hack pack of this degree, people tend to get angry, especially when journalists mob torallies and religious eveots. There's already enough grassroots antagonism toward the foreign media as it is. These numbers just make the dangers more

Antagooism stems from fierce political polarisation, each party believes the media are unfair toward them, and

from the white government's long campaign to portray the media as enemies of the state. In the past year, five jour-

nalists have been killed and more than 115 attacked reporting in South Africa. More and more journalists are looking for protection in the form of high-tech body armour designed to ward off anything from a Zulu spear to a slug from an AK-47 assault

tions factory which lies within

A Gorazde town official, Esad Ohranovic, said over ham radio that "snipers killed three people and wounded seven others between midnight

and midday." He also reported Serb tank activity inside the

ern Bosnian town has swollen

to 65,000 as civilians fled the

"The population of the east-

the exclusion zone.

exclusion area.

"In the past two weeks, our business has gone up 35 per cent," said Dennis Heyes of Body Projects, which provides body armour. "We've sold so many bullet-proof vests to foreign journalists that we have had to reorder stock every other day. Danger means big business for

The South African Union of Journalists has published a guide for visiting journalists. Surviving the Story, a Safety Manual for Journalists in South Africa." Among other things, it advises against seat-

belts to violence-torn areas to allow quick escape if a fire-bomb lands in the car. Carry swim goggles to protect eyes if tear gas is used at a rally, and always have a warm sweater in case you get thrown in a cold, damp jail

Some of these dangers seem dated, tear gas isn't used with nearly the intensity as it was during the height of apartheid, and rather than tossing reporters in jail, the government has begun wel-

Prior to 1990, it could take up to four months to obtain a work visa. Many foreigner journalists were expelled for portraying the government in an unfavourable light, and many local journalists were detained years without trial.

Now, as South Africa fights its way into the international arena, the government is relying on the media to speed up the process.

"We want the international media here. That's why we've designed a special accreditation process specifically for the elections," said Tshepo Mashalngu, "Now you can get your government press card within 10 minutes."

following the footsteps of Prince Raad and start heeling the wounds and sufferings of the physically and mentally

(Continued from page 10)

Pro-Geagea protest prevented

measures or the shooting, but official sources said they were in line with a government decision to ban demonstrations.

Hundreds of supporters of Dr. Geagea, who was detained on Thursday for questioning on possible links to a church blast and the killing of a Christian leader, have flocked to Bkirki to protest his detention. The Friday and Saturday protests were peaceful hut the crowds chanted actigovernment slogaos. Some even threatened "rivers of hlood" if he was not released

Suoday's crowd also appeared to be sympathetic to Dr. Geagea, although this time they did not express it.

Patriarch Sfeir, whose mass was delayed for 30 minutes, warned the government any unbalanced implementation of the law would unsettle the

country.
! "Justice will oot be justice unless it was for all without any exceptions," he said at the almost empty church. "If it was unbalanced, the basis of the

nation would be unsettled." He added be hoped judges investigating the Feb. 27 church bombing and the assas-sinatioo of Dani Chamoun and his family would reveal the

The Marooite commonity has been shocked by a string of events that led op to the han-ning of the LF, the country's largest Christian militia during the 1975-90 civil war, and the detention of several of its members, incloding Dr.

Patriarch Sfeir has been one of the most outspoken critics of the government of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri. He has said io the past Christians were frustrated by the unbalanced policies of the govern-

Indicial sources expect Dr. Geagea to be kept in custody for a long time for questioning. The judges investigating the two cases would determine whether to issue an arrest warrant against Dr. Geagea once the questioning is over.

Israel, PLO resume talks

(Continued from page 1)

that the accord will be signed next week," Dr. Shaath said. But the Palestinians would not "give an iota of their rights," he added.

Mr. Peres said the two sides would step up the pace of their talks in the Egyptian capital.
"The rhythm of the discussions with the PLO will be intensified this week in Cairo," he

While Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat were holding several rounds of talks in Bncharest last week, Dr. Shaath said in Cairo the negotiators had agreed that a final accord would be ready for signing between May 2 and 4.

Bot Mr. Rabin later said mid-May was a more realistic target. "I think we have enough

time this week to finish what's left." Dr. Shaath said as he entered the new round of talks. The Palestinians would first have to study Israel's written proposals on jurisdiction.

Apart from sorting out the scope of Israeli or Palestinian jurisdiction, the other main issue of the week was the release of prisoners. The PLO is demanding at least an Israeli agreement in principle to free

The 10-member Israeli team, led by General Amnoo Shahak, made no statement on

Dr. Shaath said Mr. Arafat would also be in Cairo on Wedoesday to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warreo Christopher, who will tour the Middle East in a bid to add impetus to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

This week's talks in Cairo and Paris - where negotiators are to return Mooday to finalise the economic aspects of autonomy - follow a series of mini accords on the road to autonomy.

Negotiators have wrapped np deals on communications for the Palestinian self-rule authority, water-sharing, and deploying a 9,000-strong Palestinian police force.

Under the Sept. 13 declaration of principles for autonomy. Israel was to complete a withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza by April 13 with elections to a Palestinian council to be beld by July 13.

On Sunday, six more Palestinians who fled abroad to escape the Israeli army returned to Gaza via Egypt.

A total of 76 banned or wanted Palestinians have been allowed to return to the occupied territories since the beginning of April as Israel and the PLO move toward a final deal оп антолоту.

U.N. consolidates Gorazde truce try had attacked near a muni-

(Continued from page 1)

turned down a NATO request at about midday Saturday for authorisation to bomb. U.N. officials ofteo play

down truce violations to avoid having to order airstrikes that could escalate fighting and wreck fragile negotiations. Clear violations of the NATOimposed heavy weapons ban around Sarajevo routinely have been overlooked as long as they pose no immediate

danger to the city.

A 14-truck U.N. relief convoy carrying nearly 90 tonnes of food to Gorazde left Belgrade early Sunday. Bosnian Serbs blocked it at Dobrun, 35 kilometres oortheast of Gorazde, for several hours be-

Haris Silajdzic disputed reports that Gorazde was calm on Suoday, saying Serb infan-

fore lettiog it pass. Bosoian Prime Minister

Serh offensive through the Gorazde enclave. The offensive against Gorazde has cost Bosoian Serbs the support of Russia. Foreign Mioister Andrei Kozyrev backed the nltimatum

althoogh Moscow earlier criticised NATO's involvement. He told loterfax news agency the BSA's actions "issued a criminal challenge to the elementary norms of humane behaviour

Regulations to be reviewed

(Continued from page 1)

and encouraging residents to stick to their land and areas. Prince Hassan said the environmeotal issue was not an aesthetical issue aimed only at preventing the distinction of animals and plants. It should also address desertification and gradual erosion of cultivated land, Prince Hassan said. He warned of the consequences of tampering with the environment and infrastructure.

Prioce Hassan said the talk and gossip about unemploymeot figures could sometimes be made op with a view to undermining the cohesion of the society. The Crown Prince pointed

out that official reports issued by the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) con-cluded that 13 to 15 per cent of applicants for jobs with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) are working secretly in the private sector." Yet, we are talking about takeo-for-granted high unemployment figures," the Crown Prince said.

The DEF conclusion was the result of a comparison between CSC applicants and holders of social security numbers at the Social Security Corporation

Prime Minister Abdul Salam

meeting, called for coordination among the secretaries-general and for finding linkages between the ministries and government departments. Dr. Majali said government apparta "are not separate empires hut are parts of an

integrated body."
Planning Minister Ziad Fariz explained Jordan's development trends and the economic, political and social dimensions of the five-year development plan (1993-1997). He said that the plan focuses on addressing the poverty and unemployment problems and ensuring economic growth in all sectors.

Hamas wants self-rule share

(Continued from page 1)

prisoner release will be a testiog ground for how much leverage Mr. Arafat could win with Hamas.

According to Hamas offi-cials, up to 3,000 Hamas supporters have been arrested since the Hamas suicide attack in Afula on April 6. Israel has said that it will oot release prisoners who belong to poli-tical groups opposed to the negotiations. The prisoners held by Israel now range be-tween 11,000 and 12,000, PLO

sources say. Palestiniao oegotiator Nabile Shaath has stressed in

his talks with the Israelis that the PLO needs to obtain the release of prisoners from all parties to retain its status as negotiator for all Palestinians.

But Hamas is betting on the inability of the PLO to obtain such terms for a prisoner release from the Israelis. "When Israel lets only Fatch prisoners out it will be a big

plus for us. It will expose Ara-

fat as the leader of Fatch not of the Palestinians," said the Amman-based Hamas official. Asked if a weakened Arafat is the best negotiating partner on behalf of the Palestmians, the Hamas spokesman said: "He is the leader only until

clections take place.

Settler attacked

(Continued from page 1)

of a woman a day earlier on government policies. "We're dying for peace." The settlers chanted "we're fed up with the Hamas government," a reference to the Islamic group.

Israel permitted five Palestioians formerly wanted hy Israel for involvement with the armed cells of the PLO to return to Gaza from Egypt on Wednesday, a goodwill gesture to the PLO as part of the peace talks. Dozens have heen allowed hack over the past

House waters down law

(Continued from page 1)

He said the government needs to be able to efficiently adjust the items exempted in order to accommodate new economic realities and developments that could emerge. But Mr. Ahul Ragheh rejected this argument, saying the law should specify the items exempted to protect lowincome citizens and prevent the government from reducing

the number of these items. He said the government could succumh to pressure from certain bodies like the Ioternational Monetary Fund (IMF) as happened when the

fund demanded that 16 new items be included in the consumption tax which the draft law would replace.

Mr. Abul Ragheb's statement drew an angry reaction from Dr. Majali, who said the government "does not succumh to pressure from anybody" and demanded that Mr. Ann Kaenen withdraw marks.

The House is scheduled to resume its debate of the controversial 51-article legislation Tuesday amid clear indications that both the government and the Financial Committee are heading towards more confrontations and will continue to lobby deputies for support.



Boycotted firm seeks contract

(Continued from page 10)

trade barriers and the lifting of the secondary boycott that primarily affects U.S. companies. Motorola, one of the largest American companies, was mentioned in this context. according to Amman-based di-

The U.S. Senate earlier this car passed legislation harring U.S. military sales to countries that try to persuade American firms to comply with the Arab boycott against Israel.

The legislation aims at the Tso-called secondary and tertiary boycott against U.S. firms doing business with Israel. It is illegal for American firms to observe the boycott by providing related documents required by the governments of the importing countries.

nteb ull # cide ners

The Arab boycott covers three areas in commercial activity — the primary boycott hars the 22 members of the Arab League from direct commercial activity with Israel. Egypt has been exempted since it signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

The secondary boycott, which includes about 10,000 firms, blacklists companies which have a branch, factory or investment in Israel. Firms are regularly put on or struck off the list by the Damascus-based Arab Boycott of Israel

The tertiary boycott targets companies which do business with blacklisted firms in order to avoid being blacklisted themselves.

Officials and diplomats said in private after Mr. Brown's visit that Jordan, coming under U.S. pressure, was adopting a case-by-case approach to the secondary and tertiary boycott.

Next Japan premier eyes economy TOKYO (R) — Tsutomu

Hata, Japan's prime ministerdesignate, promised Sunday to show leadership in tackling three key tasks: Slashing government red tape, revamping the tax system and reducing the huge trade surplus.

Mr. Hata promised to immediately tackle the most urgent economic tasks by passing the now-overdue national budget for 1994-95, reforming the tax system and drafting measures to reduce Tokyo's chronic trade surplus with the United States.

He emphasised deregulation, reducing labyrinthine government red tape, as one of

Turkey shuts

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish

authorities ordered the Tur-

kish Import and Export Bank

(IMPEX) to stop trading Sun-day. The bank was the third to

be closed in two weeks after a

run on deposits by customers

fearful over Turkey's faltering

The order, by the treasury

and foreign trade secretariat, was announced in the official

gazette which said IMPEX

must not carry out any banking

activities or collects until in-

spections were completed. The

treasury, trying to control an

economic crisis marked by a

sharp rise in interest rates and

the lira's depreciation, said this

was the last of Turkey's 70

"As of today there is no

other hank in the system that is

in difficulty to meeting its

ohligations either in Turkish

banks to be in trouble.

TYT Bank on April 11.

third bank

his main priorities.

"I want to proceed with deregulation... because it'll help open markets and create new types of industries," Mr. Hata said. "Tax reform is another important task."

Japan has come under 'U.S. pressure to reduce income taxes and overhaul its tax system to rectify an imbalance that places the weight heavily on direct taxes as opposed to indirect laxes.

In the wrangle over policy, the Socialists bitterly opposed the idea of raising a three per cent value-added tax to fund income tax cuts and help the government prepare for a rapidly ageing society.

In the end they relented and agreed to include an indirect tax hike in the policy platform, but fine-tuning the details of tax reform promises to spark more coalition turmoil.

"If we want to continue with income tax cuts, then by all means we've got to think of (how to fund them)," Mr. Hata said. "We hope to determine our course of action by June and make a final decision by the end of the year.

Mr. Hata's June agenda promises to he busy. Tokyo has promised to work out by mid-June the details of a market-opening plan it un-veiled to Washington as evidence of its intention to cut its annual \$50-hillion trade surplus with the United States.

"We're going to decide on macro-economic policies that are not aimed just at reducing the surplus but also at improving the quality life of the Japanese people," Mr. Hata

The package is needed to help persuade the United States to reopen deadlocked economic framework talks in order to avert the threat of trade sanctions later this year.

Britain's economy picked up steam in first quarter—analysts

LONDON (R) — Britain's economy gathered momentum during the first quarter of 1994. boosted both hy higher production and a pickup in domestic demand as consumers ignored April's impending tax

rises. analysts said.

Forecasts from six houses in London's financial district ranged between growth of 0.6 and 1.0 per cent during the three months to March, but most expected gross domestic product (GDP) to match its 0.7 per cent rise in the final quarter of 1993.

"You will certinly see an increase in output during the first quarter. This was partly fed by a rise in exports hut more particularly by an increase in domestic demand," analyst Robert Lind at Union Bank of Switzerland in London said.

The official first quarter GDP data is due Monday. A harrage of financial data on Friday showed British bank lira or foreign currency," it The private Marmara Bankasi Bank was barred on April lending surged in March, back-21 from accepting deposits and ing up recent evidence the recovery was proceeding at a

healthy pace despite the £8.4 hillion (\$12.51 billion) of tax rises which took effect in

News on Thursday that consumer spending grew by a strong 0.8 per cent in March double expectations - backed optimistic predictions that GDP grew by 1.0 per cent in the first quarter, giving a year-on-year rise of 2.8 per cent.

The general picture is that the components of GDP... are responding to a very significant stimulus from the interest rate reductions in the past two years." James Capel's Adam Cole said.

We think that will be sufficient to offset the impact of tax increases coming through in the second quarter," he said. Views are still mixed on the

long-term view, but most independent economists now believe U.K. growth will surpass the government's 2.5 per cent forecast for 1994 as a whole, with three per cent now the most commonly held forecast. Chancellor of the Exchequer

Kenneth Clarke hinted he also thought this might be the case in a radio interview early on Thursday, saying: "No-one can accuse me of getting too over-excited about good news but the fact is we have the hard evidence showing the economy

is strengthening all the time."
March industrial output figures have yet to be released, but many analysts are predicting a one per cent increase for the quarter as a whole after a big 0.8 per cent jump in February.

Service sector growth which accounts for more than two thirds of total national output and has made the higgest contribution to Britain's recovery to date --- is likely to have provided a hig boost due to its link with consumer spending.

A likely rise in government spending ahead of the new financial year, coupled with healthy growth in car registrations, all add weight to the positive outlook, Warhurg economist Darren Winder said.

U.S. textile imports top \$36b

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. imports of textiles under international agreements hit a new record of \$36 billion in 1993. China accounted for \$4.8 bilhon, by far the biggest sup-plier, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) has reported.

Last year China sold \$22.8 hillion worth of goods to this country in excess of what it imported, rolling up the largest trade surplus with the United States except for Japan.

President Bill Clinton is due to decide by June 4 whether China has made enough progress in human rights to warrant continuation of its status as a "most favoured nation," which has made much of its trade possible. If he revokes that status, U.S. imports are expected to drop sharply.

The commission noted a new agreement barring the growth of Chinese textile shipments to the United States this year and limiting their growth to one per cent in 1995 and 1996.

This system of internationally agreed quotas, known as the multifiber arrangement (MFA), covers U.S. agreements with 41 countries. It is due to be phased out in 10 years under the new system of world trade formalised Friday by more than 120 governments in a ceremony at Marrakesh,

The ITC also reported a separate new agreement be-tween the United States and China on silk garments, not covered by international accords. These ships and hlouses, ouce prime luxury items, have now become a cheap substitute for cotton shirts and hlouses, the report said. U.S. imports of them from China increased seven times between 1989 and 1993, when they totalled \$1.9 billion

The fastest growth of U.S. imports under MFA was from Mexico and the Caribbean. The traditional big three suppliers in Asia Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea showed declines last year, and there was an even sharper drop in U.S. amports from Singa-

Latin American nations stand, firm against trade conditions mental linkage regarding mar-

SAO PAULO, Brazil (R) — Foreign ministers from Latin America and Europe pledged Saturday to jointly protect hnman rights and tackle social problems to foster development, but the Latin Americans firmly rejected any link between these sensitive social issues and trade. "We're very clear on this,

that it's not appropriate to establish any kind of con-ditionalities (for trade)," Ecuador's Foreign Minister Diego Paredes told reporters in Sao Paulo.

"Free trade, not conditionality, is the best way to help the Brazilian worker," said Bra-zil's Foreign Minister Celso Amorim.

Latin American concerns over attempts by Europe to tie trade access to prickly issues like human rights, child labour or workers' rights were apparent during a two-day meeting of Eurpean Union and Rio Group ministers that ended

It was the first meeting of two hig North-South regional groups since the historic sign-ing last week of the GATT Uruguay Round world trade treaty in Morocco.

The final declaration of the Sao Paulo meeting reflected the Latin American position by stating: "The Rio Group ministers reject the unilateral application of any political, economic, social and environket access in international trade relations.

Speaking for Europe. Greek's alternate foreign minister Theodoros Pangalos said Europe could not abandon its concern over social issues, as these were as valid . for the developed European nations as they were for developing

Latin America. He said the European Union would take Latin America's position into account when considering trade — framed in the so-called General System of Preferences - with the re-

While firmly opposing any linkage of social issues with trade access, Rio Group minis-ters acknowledged their countries should urgently address serious social problems of poverty and inequality created by rapid economic growth and

"We have a huge social debt at our backs," Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa said. "Democracy, human rights and development are linked to

each other and should go together," Mr. Pangalos said. He said the European Union and Rio Group had agreed to strengthen the role of the United Nations to protect human rights and fight all kinds of social discrimination.

"We are also ready to protect the native Indians (of Latin America) and their cultures... and to protect children, especially homeless and abandoned children," Mr.

Pangalos said. Host nation Brazil in particular has been criticised abroad for failing to adequate ly protect its street children

and Indian people from violence, abuse and exploitation. Addressing fears in Latin America that the region might be in danger of losing its past favourable trade position in relation to Europe, Mr. Pangalos said the European market

was open for business. The European Union is the

"The European Union is the freest trading partner in the world today." he said.

According to European Union (EU) figures, Latin American exports to Europe fell to 22 billion ECUs, or European Currency Units (\$25 billion) in 1993 from 25 billion ECUs (\$28 billion) in 1990. In com trast, European exports to Latin America jumped to 23 billion ECUs (\$26 billion) in 1993 from 15 billion ECUs (\$17 billion) in 1990. Ecuador's Paredes said

several European ministers were aware Latin America represented a big potential market for Europe and were ready to be flexible over the social issues question.

In their declaration, the European Union and Rio Group ministers also vowed to fight terrorism and drug-

ASEAN agrees to speed up, widen free trade plan

GENTING HIGHLANDS. Malaysia (AFP) — ASEAN economic ministers concluded informal talks at the weekend with an agreement to expedite. and widen the scope of a free trade area for Sonth East Asia's rich economies.

The ministers of the six Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries approved a programme to speed up the 15-year programme for the implementation of ASEAN's Free

Trade Area (AFTA).
"Senior officials will look into all aspects of AFFA to shorten the schedule and if

iem," the Australian Associa-

tion Press quoted him as telling

the conference on Queens-

land's Gold Coast, south of

He said his country could

viable, include other sectors originally excluded in the programme," Rafidah Aziz, Malaysia's minister of international trade, said at a news conference.

In a communique late Saturday after two days of talks here, the six ministers said they agreed to look into including raw agricultural products and non-manufactured goods into the AFTA plan.

"The fact that there was consensus on exploring the possibility of expanding the scope of AFTA to include new areas shows ASEAN's determination towards greater re-gional economic integration," said S.B. Joedono, Indonesia's trade minister.

ASEAN, grouping Brunei Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thai land, set up a programme in 1992 to gradually tear down tariffs on 15 groups of manufactured products covering 40,000 items towards achieving AFTA in 15 years.

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sumer Products (BCP) which motive products, he also aims GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Swedish industrial by an abortive attempt to merge with French car maker to revitalise finances to reduce debt and let more money flow Renault last December. The collapse cost flamboyant forthrough to auto units. mer chairman and chief execu-Mr. Gyll told shareholders:

Volvo starts long haul back to basics

group A.B. Volvo, announcing its post-Renault strategy, has said it plans to sell off its non-transport assets and concentrate on cars, trucks and engines,
"Volvo is to be developed

into a streamlined automotive company, The Volvo trademark is our most important asset," managing director Soren Gyll told 1,300 shareholders at the annual general meeting in this city where Volvo is based.

The plan is a blueprint for Volvo's survival alone after the company was thrown into chaos

tive Pehr Gyllenhammar his job, and Mr. Gyll's vision is to undo what his predecessor did - expand the empire by turning Volvo into a diversified

group. While Mr. Gyllenhammar was proud to boast he had created Sweden's flagship industrial company, Mr. Gyll is more concerned with Volvo's position as the ninth biggest carmaker in Europe.

As well as concentrating all the group's energies on auto-

NEW YORK NEW

The automotive operations will be assured the financial position and resources that are necessary for long-term, consistent competitiveness. This will involve the freeing up of assets and allocation of the funds to the automotive opera-

Volvo's debt amounted to 14.5 billion crowns (over \$1.8" billion) at the end of 1993.

The biggest single potential sale would be of a majority shareholding in Branded Con-

Volvo is in the process of acquiring in full.
Shareholders approved Volvo's bid for BCP, giving Mr.
Gyll the thumbs-up for this key

part of his restructuring plan.

The terms of the offer, based on one Volvo share for six BCP shares; will mean Volvo issuing new shares and in an open vote the owners agreed to

27.5 per cent of the capital in drugmaker Pharmacia, acquired as part of a complex deal with the government last year under which it has prom-ised not to sell a 25 per cent stake until after the end of

1995. Mr. Gyll assured shareholders that Volvo would not interfere with the state's privatisation plans for the pharmacentical group, implying that Volvo has no intention of trying to exit from the position

"Volvo's transformation to a streamlined automotive group is expected to be completed during 1996," Mr. Gyll said. Company officials, looking

at the possible income from the eventual sale of these two assets, said it was reasonable to expect a total sales ticket of about 30 billion crowns (nearly \$3.8 billion).
All shareholdings and in-

terests deemed peripheral to the core automotive business will be grouped in a new holding company with immediate effect and Volvo will give it its own management, Mr. Gyll

AIDS threatens Asian economies, expert says

SYDNEY (R) — The AIDS virus threatens to weaken some Asian economics and international influence must be exercised on countries failing to adopt prevention program-mes, a population expert said Saturday.

Mechai Verivaidya, the head of Thailand's Population and Community Development Association, told a sexual health conference that HIV infections threatened to severely crode some economies in the next few years through the loss of productive workers, investment and tourism.

He said the rate of infection in Asia was poised to overtake Africa which now had the highest level of infection.

"We've got to see that this is

more than just a health prob-

lose 10 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), in-cluding more than \$5 billion in lost tourism and \$2 billion in foreign investment in the next few years if further action against the spread of HIV were not taken. He said that while Thailand

Brisbanc.

was progressing with prevention programmes, some Asian countries were ignoring the problem and lying about HIV infection statistics.

The United Nations should

use its political influence to make clear the importance of. HIV prevention policy to Asian leaders, he said.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Armold and Mike Argirion Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form PROAN SUMEO **DUMPIO** WHAT HELPED KEEP HER DRY IN THE RAIN. CHUNQE Now arrange the circled letters to n the surprise answer, as sug-ted by the above cartoon. Print answer here:

Jumbles: ALIVE DAILY AIRWAY MAROON Answer: The route they took to grandma's house — THE "WAIL" FIOAD

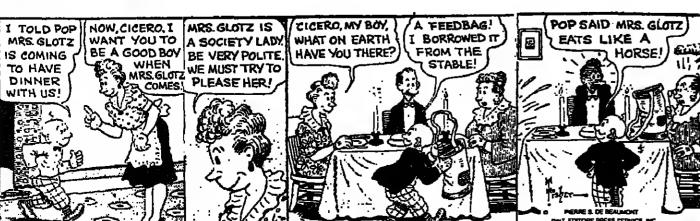
DIMENSIONS Restaurant OF PLEASURE 605307 AL SHMEISANI

Peanuts





Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 25, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologar, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon in Scorpio touches of seven aspects that guarantee much activity this first day of the week. Be quick to seize opportunities that suddenly appear and slow to lose your

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can have more harmony at now by changing your attitude. Study new oullets that could add to your income and reputation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Obtain information you need from the right sources that can help you advance in career mat-ters. Take no risk with strangers. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try a new slant where business matters are concerned and get better results than in the past. Curb your temper or you may get

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go after your fondest wishes in a positive way early in the day and get good results. Avoid a troublemaker who could cause you problems. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Listening to advisors who are

ahead and following advice is wise now. Be more thoughtful of VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get friends to help you with personal aims you have, and gain them quickly. Don't jeopar-

interested in seeing you get

dize your good name by partici-pating in bad activities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-ber 22) Study your overall aims and then contact those who can assist you in gaining them. Take stock of what you have accomplished in your life. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) New projects can come to your affention now that

should be seriously studied, since they could be fine for you in terms of your success. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is an ideal day to keep any promises you have made and get problems solved satisfactorily. Be con-

project. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Try to understand an emotional associate who is having personal problems at this time. Take time to improve your appearance and you will be suc-

lented in the progress of any

AQUARIUS: (January 21 10 February 19) Put your linest ta-lents into tasks ahead of you and get fine benefits from them. Be sure to handle your money wisely or you may run out.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Accept a special invitation since it could bring nice things and happiness. Be careful of persons who are jealous of you





54 Through 57 Deficiency 62 Cabbage di 63 Final tests 64 Thick soup 65 Disagreeable 66 Disagreeable

66 Disperse 67 Bird food

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Financial





Foreign Exchange Market Summary (April 18 - April 22, 1994)

MMAN — The dollar depreciated sharply against major iropean currencies at the end of last week, while stabilising ainst the yen. It ended 1.56 per cent lower against the mark d 1.19 per cent lower against sterling.

The U.S. unit retreated against other major currencies onday, despite a rise in U.S. federal funds rate from 3.50 per nt to 3.75 per cent. It was affected negatively by the decline U.S. stock and bond prices, which followed the Fed's onetary tightening. The dollar also lost ground on news that me European central banks intervened in the market to sell

The dollar declined against major European currencies sesday, while stabilising against the yen. It retreated to 5950 marks during trading hours, as demand for mark creased on European crosses. The dollar rose later in a atureless trade, however, to close at 1.7005 marks. The U.S. unit was little affected by the release of new U.S.

onomic reports, which came with negative results. The ljusted retail sales showed a decline of 1.1 per cent during e first two weeks of April, compared to the same period of e previous month. Furthermore, the February trade deficit to \$9.7 billion, from \$6.6 billion the previous month. The U.S. unit continued its retreat against major European trencies Wednesday. It was affected negatively by the cline in European stock and bond prices, especially German re's, as they retreated despite of a 0.12% decline in German purchase agreement rate.

The dollar lost ground on deteriorating confidence in the ength of the U.S. economy, after the release of the U.S. ade report in the previous day showing a large trade deficit. On the other hand, increased confidence in the German onomy affected the mark positively against the dollar. The ark was pushed higher still against the dollar by the · juidation of some long term foreign currency based assets, in rich the proceeds were invested in mark based short term

:On Thursday, the dollar rose against other major currenes, however, especially against the yen. Rumours that some propean central banks, the Fed and the Bank of Japan. dervened in the market to buy dollars against the yen fected the dollar positively against the Japanese currency. the rumours came after expectations of intervention by the ank of Spain, which was said to have bought marks against in, in order to replenish its foreign reserves.

Meanwhile, the U.s. treasury secretary told reports that the S. was not trying to devalue the dollar in order to gain

rcess to the Japanese markets. The dollar retreated modestly against the mark and yen riday, while rising slightly against sterling. It declined on mming expectations of an agreement to raise the dollar rainst other major currencies, especially against the yen, aring the G-7 meeting next Sunday. Meanwhile, political stability in the United Kingdom, stemming from upcoming ections, affected sterling negatively against the dollar.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.6882 marks and the sterling ended it at 53 4895 13.24 yen, while sterling ended it at \$1.4895.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the

15/4) 1994 Close	£2/4/1994 Close	Percent Change
1.4720	1.4895	1.198
1.7145	1.6882	1.56%
1.4550	1.4325	1.57%
5.8615	5.7870	1.098
103.45	103.24	0.20%
	1.4720 1.7145 1.4550 5.8615	Close Close 1.4720 1.4895 1.7145 1.6882 1.4550 1.4325 5.8615 5.7870

2 15D Per STG

Rates'				
15/4/1	15/4/1994		22/4/1994	
- Worth! %	(-Year 1%)	j-Vjenih i %i	l-Year 1%	
3.5000	4.7500	3.6900	5.0000	
4.8100	5.44 <u>00</u>	4.9400	5.4400	
5.5600	5.1300	5.3100	5.0600	
3.9400	3.7500	3.7500	3.7500	
5.8800	5.7500	5.8100	5.6900	
2.0000	7.3800	2.0000	2.4400	
	15/4/1 1-Vorthi ⁻¹ -1 3,5000 4.8100 5.5600 3.9400 5.8800	15/4/1994 1-Yomthi 1-1 1-Year 15-1 3,5000 4.7500 4.8100 5.4400 5.5600 5.1300 3.9400 3.7500 5.8800 5.7500	15/4/1994 22/4/ 1-Months 1 1-Year 1501 1-Months 15s1 3.5000 4.7500 3.6900 4.8100 5.4400 4.9400 5.5600 5.1300 5.3100 3.9400 3.7500 3.7500	

	Date:74/4; [944		
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7020	0.1040	
Sterling Pound	1.0437	1.0489	
Deutsche Mark	0.4154	0.4175	
Swiss Franc	0.4896	0.4920	
French Franc	0.1210	0.1216	
Japanese Yen²	0.6792	0.6826	
Durch Guilder	0.3692	0.3710	
Swedish Krona	*****	*****	
(talien Lira*	0.0454	0.0436	
Belgian Franc	****	*****	
Belgian Franc			

Saudi Arabia requires offset for mega phones deal

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has included an offset clause in a billion-dollar telephone contract that is likely to set a trend for future mega-projects in the kingdom, analysts and industry sources said Sunday.

They said tenders invited late last year to install 500,000 new telephone lines within Saudi Arabia included a requirement that the winning company reinvest 35 per cent of the project's value in joint ventures with local partners.

Offset clauses, already common in large arms deals with Saudi Arabia and some other oil-rich Arab Gulf states aiming to attract foreign investment and technical know-how, are likely to feature increasingly in non-military deals, they

This was particularly true in high-technology sectors like telecommunications, they said. Sweden's L.M. Enesson

but booming stock exchange

has taken less than four

months to match its 28 per cent

rise over the whole of last year.

and a fresh boost is expected

from market reforms and pri-

The government recently

announced plans to draft a law

to reform the exchange, found-

ed in 1969, and bring it up to international standards to

attract domestic and foreign

Details of the reforms have

not been made public but one

main thrust will be to ease

access to the exchange for fore-

ign investors, bankers said.

Entry to the market has been

subject to authorisation by the

Until recently the bourse

was little more than an infor-

mai coffee-house-style opera-

tion, but a report by the invest-

ment firm Lehman Brothers on

Arab stock markets of

Mediterranean now views it as

one of the most rewarding of

the small emerging markets.

vatisation.

central bank.

Telefon A.B. and Japan's NEC are reported to have jointly put in the lowest bid of \$1.67 billion. Other bidders for the contract, which has yet to be awarded, include Canada's Northern Telecom and U.S.

firm ATT Corporation.
A source close to the project said it was the first time a Saudi relecommunications contract included an offset clause. "It's not clear or specific,

but more of a general commit-

ment to reinvest in the mar-ket," he said, "the only requirement is that it be related to telecommunications. "(Including offsets) is the trend, but not for every project. It would depend parily on the size of the project, and this

is one of the biggest in the past two years," one Western economic analyst said. "Likely projects could involve cabling and fibre-opnes ... transfer of high-level tech-

Tunisia's bourse booms ahead

The total value of market

trade reached 142 million di-

nars (\$162 million) in 1993, up

from 129 million dinars (\$128

official at the exchange, com-

menting on the rapid rise of the

market's index in the first

The reforms are intended to

loosen restrictions that have

impeded the bourse's develop-

ment, It has been slow to take

off despite liberalisation of the

economy in recent years, and

Only 13 companies are listed

on the primary market - 11

banks, most of which are state-

owned, one leading company

and a newly listed chemical

firm. Seven companies are

listed on the secondary mar-

But a two per cent cut in

interest rates, a stock shortage

and the entry into the market

of nine bank backed invest-

ment funds have helped to fuel

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the market's recent rise,

the market is still finy.

"There is a rush," said an

of reforms and privatisation

million) in 1989.

months of 1994.

nology in general. Power generation is another one, though we haven't seen that yet," he pointed out.

Saudi Arabia and its Arab Gulf neighbours, conscious of their oil-based economies' dependence on unpredictable world oil prices, are keen to develop non-oil industries.

Offset deals are one way of caining access to foreign investment and expertise while keeping state borrowing down.

Offset joint ventures stemming from defence contracts have kicked off several major industries in Saudi Arabia, including aircraft maintenance and manufacturing circuit boards and other electronic equipment for American warplanes and battle tanks.

The analyst noted: "At least one company involved in the Tep-6 (telephone deat) has given close thought to offset to

bourse a place to put their

money," said Ezedine Saidanz,

director general of of the

largest private bank, the Inter-

national Arab Bank of Tunisia.

been putting most of their money in treasury bills but

they must now comply with a law that obliges them to have

70 per cent of their money in

sehares within two years after

they start up. That's why they

are buying shares." he added.

"But the demand is much grea-

ter than what's on offer be-

The investment funds have

pumped about 300 million di-

nars (\$300 million) into the

market, bourse officials said.

But Mr. Saidane said he is

"There will be a top and-

"What is needed now is

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not worried about a possible

then prices will decrease," he

measures to widen the market-

through privatisation and to

develop information on the

share price explosion.

stock market."

cause the market is tiny."

"The investment funds have

appealing than just assembly (of components locally)." But the others are really

only paying fip-service to the

Saudi Arabia, whose revenues have been hit by a sharp fall in oil prices during the last year, is now moving to

But the analyst said: "When there's more stability, offset is going to loom larger in the minds of Saudi officials."

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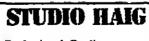
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Moscow residents

MOSCOW (AP) — Reviving an old Sovier custom, Masco-

vites took up mops, brooms

and rakes Saturday to give the

city a spring cleaning. Across

the city, grandmothers, sol-diers, politicians, chiloren,

husbands and wives could be

seen sweeping city sidewalks or

raking leaves in parks. The

voluntary cleanup, known as a

"Subbotnik," was the idea of Moscow Mayor Yury Luzh-kov. It was intended to spruce up the city which was left with

muddy streets and littered

parks after the spring thaw. In

Soviet days, workers across the country "volunteered" a free

day's work two times a year, but until Mikhail Gorbachev

became president in 1986.

turnout was in reality compul-sory. Mr. Gorbachev decreed

that "subbotniks" should be truly voluntary, and the cus-tom quickly disappeared be-cause no one showed up.

stops bullet meant

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A prayer book may have saved

the life of a nun shot by a fleeing armed robber, police

said. Two nuns were speaking

to a police officer in front of the sisters Servants of Mary Convent Thursday when a fleeing armed robber fired at

them several times, apparently thinking the policeman was going to give chase, police said. A bullet passed through

the prayer book of one nun,

then hit her in the hip. The

38-year-old woman was treated

Prayer book

for nuns

clean up city

S. Africa bomb blast kills 7

JOHANNESBURG (R) - A powerful bomb exploded near offices of the radical Pan Africanist Congress and Nelson Mandela's ANC in central Johannesburg Sunday, killing seven people and wounding dozens, police and a hospital

The blast, which shattered nearby buildings and set fire to parked cars, coincided with the last day of official campaigning for South Africa's historic allrace elections, which begin

Robert Odes, Johannesburg General Hospital medical superintendent, said ambulance staff had reported seven killed. "Seven in total, one dead here, six on the scene," be told reporters. He said 79 people

Police said it was too early to tell the target. They estimated the size of the bomb, which was in or under a car, at 80 to 90 kilogrammes.

had been wounded.

"It is clearly aimed at scaring people on the eve of the election," Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) General Secretary Benny Alexander told Reuters. "It seems the bomb was aimed at

ANC spokesman Carl

Generals

Yeltsin in

LONDON (R) — President

Boris Yeltsin, in memoirs to be

published next month, has re-

vealed that his top generals

defied him and his elite special

forces units refused orders dur-

ing last October's political

Only a stray bullet which killed a special forces officer

persuaded the other member

of the elite units to follow

orders and storm the par-liamentary Wbite Honse,

according to extracts from the book published in the Sunday

Mr. Yeltsin's account con-

firmed that he came within a

whisker of losing power last October because of ontright

resistance by the army to his orders. "The country was truly

May 3.

hanging by a thread, he wrote. The book, The View From The Kremlin, will be published by Harper Collins on

Although there were reports

of military hesitation soon af-

ter the October crisis. Mr.

Yeltsin's account makes clear

that the resistance to his orders

went much further than he

acknowledged at the time. Troops finally stormed the

White House on Oct. 4, 1993.

after riots the previous day

which turned into an armed

uprising. Officially I47 people

died in the two days of fight-

Mr. Yeltsin said that at 5

a.m. on the morning of Oct. 4.

two bours after be bad given

orders for the operation, he

was called to meet officers of

the elite Vympel and Alfa units

of Presidential Troops, who

had been assigned the key role

ing for me they all rose to greet

me. As I faced them, I could

not escape a sense of trepida-

tion and grief. I looked at them

one by one almost all of them

"I barked: 'Are you pre-pared to fulfil the president's

order?' There was only silence

- a terrible, inexplicable silence. Nobody uttered a word.

nobody uttered a word. I final-

ly growled: 'Then I'll put it

another way: Are you refusing

to obey the president's order?

again, silence. I turned on my

heel and strode towards the

door, calling out that the order

Mr. Yeltsin said the two

units still refused to take part

and "dug their heels in", refus-

ing to go nearer than 500

Only when a sniper killed

one of their officers did the

elite units agree to go into

Earlier in the night, Mr.

Yeltsin faced similar insub-

ordination from his top milit-

ary brass. Despite promises

from Defence Minister Pavel

Grachev that regular troops

would enter Moscow at any

minute, they had remained

Mr. Yeltsin, denying that he

panicked during the crisis.

wrote that the reason he did

not appeal on television for

public support was that he was

too busy arguing with his top

I was trying to bring my combat generals out of their state of stress and paralysis.

military leaders.

outside the city's ring road.

metres to the White House.

must be obeyed."

action.

"I waited for a minute still

lowered their eyes.

Thirty of them were wait-

in the assault

showdown in Moscow.

'defied'

October

crisis

Niehaus agreed it was an assault on the election which will end 342 years of white domination.

"I am convinced this is a direct attack on democracy and the election. I bope people will not be intimidated by this and will deal with this through the ballot box this week," he said.

Another spokesman for the PAC, one of 27 parties contesting the three-day elections, said a man speaking in the Afrikaans language of many conservative whites had made a hostile telephone call before the blast.

Members of the white far right, which is boycotting the polls and demanding an Afri-kaner Volkstaat or white homeland, have issued veiled threats to disrupt the poll, which the ANC is expected to win.

Police linked white rightwingers to bomb blasts last week. including an attack on a regional office of the Independent Electoral Commission, which is running the elections for national and regional

White rightists fighting to save apartheid have been blamed for bomb attacks on small rural ANC offices in conservative heartlands but bave never undertaken an attack of

Witnesses said one dead man was apparently white. Several buildings were badly damaged, cars were burning and water from burst mains flooded the streets.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela, almost certain to become South Africa's first black president, was wrapping up his campaign in the port city of Durban, capital of the Zulu heartland of Kwazulu-Natal.

Police were out in force there following the murder by an angry mob Saturday of three ANC officials distributing election leaflets in Uhundi, capital of the black bomeland of Kwazuln and stronghold of chief Mangosuthu Bnthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

Police chiefs sent reinforcements into Jobannesburg's black townsbip of Soweto where Mr. Buthelezi was wrapping np his last minute elec-

tions campaign.

Mr. Buthelezi's party de-cided to run only last Tuesday after striking a deal with the government and ANC on the Zulu monarchy and position of the Kwazulu-Natal heartland in the new South Africa.

More than 15,000 people have been killed in fighting over four years of apartheid reform, mainly between In-katha and ANC supporters.

Political sources expressed fears of revenge attacks for the Ulundi killings by ANC sup-porters on Zulus attending the rally in Soweto, an ANC strongbold where locals have clashed frequently with mainly Zulu bostel dwellers.

"Clearly the last thing we want is violence, so it won't be coming from us," Inkatha spokeswoman Suzanoe Vos

Police and troops in armoured vehicles cordoned off the streets around the two black liberation movements' offices in Johannesburg's Hillbrow area after the blast.

PAC regional communica-tions head Mandla Cebekhuln said an angry caller speaking with an Afrikaner accent had telephoned.

"He said: 'I am not going to vote for this damned PAC, before be put down the phone," Mr. Cebekhulu told Reuters.

"After about 10 minutes there was this explosion and people started panicking."

Rwanda peace talks fail to start as carnage rages unabated suade him to drop the RPF's refusal to negotiate with Unity (OAU). Criticism of the U.N.

ARUSHA, Tanzania (AFP) — Efforts to bring Rwanda's interim government and rebels to the negotiating table bere failed Sunday as carnage raged mabated in the central African nation and spread further in neighbouring Purposition

neighbouring Burundi.
Up to 100,000 people bave
now been killed in 17 days of
bloodletting in Rwanda,
according to latest figures from
the Red Cross.
U.N. officials here reported

continued clashes Sunday in Rwanda and "heavy fighting" in Burundi, which sbares Rwanda's blood-steeped history of ethnic feuding between the minority Tutsi and majority Hntu tribes.

Burundi, still reeling from the massacres of tens of thousands of people last year after the assassination of its first Hutu presideot, had until now avoided the genocide that engulfed Rwanda after both countries' presidents died in a mysterions April 6 plane crash. In Rwanda, the mainly Totsi rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) bas declared a unilateral

ceasefire from midnight Mon-Bot it warned that the truce would only bold if the pre-dominantly Hutu government forces stopped slanghtering Tutsi civilians and opposition supporters in territory "they control within 96 hours of the

start of the ceasefire. Front Secretary General talks Sunday with Tanzanian Prime Minister John Malecela. Diplomats said Mr. Malecela was trying to per-

KIEV (R) - Ukraine and

Russia remain far apart in re-solving an increasingly bitter

dispute over the Black Seat

Fleet, but will have to swallow

their pride to pursue negotia-

tions on where to base naval

The row over the fleet is

probably the most intractable

separating the two most

powerful former Soviet repub-

the Soviet-era fleet's head-

quarters in Sevastopol, broke

down in acrimony Friday after Russia rejected Ukrainian

proposals on allocating bases. Each side blamed the other

- a week after President

Leonid Kravchuk and Boris

Yeltsin had agreed to split the fleet's ships 50-50 and gave

negotiators 10 days to work out

The latest round of talks, at

forces in the region.

"We anticipated that both

sides would take part in the The talks failed despite fren-

peacekeeping operation in Rwanda has mounted since the world body decided to with-draw almost 90 per cent of its draw almost 90 per cent of its troops from Rwanda amid fears for their safety.

The slashing of the peacekeeping force from 2,500 to 270 prompted harsh criticism from aid agencies and OAU Secretary-General Salim

Ahmad Salim. Mr. Rndasingwa, mean-

while, criticised the U.N. in Rwanda for being "ineffectual on the ground."

He said the Front bad writ-

ten to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to complain abont U.N. special envoy Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh's "poor performance."

"He is partly responsible for what has happened in Rwanda in the past few weeks," Mr Rudasingwa said, adding he was disappointed that the U.N. had apparently recognised the unelected interim government. He said the U.N. had stood

on the sidelines while Western countries armed the government, which in turn had armed extremist militias he blamed

for the killings.
"We are absolutely not willing to talk today," Mr. Ruda-singwa added. "It's up to the other side to show us first what they mean to do by observing the ceasefire."

He said the rebels were not TOT TEVELD wanted an international tribunal to investigate "the holocaust and genocide" and punish those responsible.

tial level, along with appropri-

ate ministers and experts, to take decisions," he said in one of a series of interviews.

"This is not an issue for

ministers to solve. It is an issue

which presidents and govern-

out more than 800 vessels,

Negotiators last week shared

ments must decide."

and released at a hospital. Police would not release her name. "It is a sign that God was protecting us all," said the uninjured nun, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The officer also was uninjured. The gunman escaped. Police

gunman escaped. Police spokesman Sgt. Marlon Defillo said police were still searching for a man who is wanted in connection with at least I6 armed robberies of convenience stores. Russia renationalises

the demon drink

MOSCOW (AFP) - Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, in a move harking back to the Soviet era, reestablished a state monopoly on the sale, production and storage of alcohol Saturday, ITAR-TASS news agency said. A resolution he signed described the measure as aimed at "defending the state's economic interests and the rights of consumers." It would affect "all enterprises... including joint companies," meaning Russian and foreign-owned firms. The government will have a month to give out licenses for production, storage and sale of alcohol, and must also work out annual forecasts for volume of output and sales, as well as imports and exports, the agen-

Gerlatric U.K. falcon in illegal bird sales

LONDON (R) - 'A Briton said Saturday. John Edwards, hatched them from eggs stolen from the wild and passed them off as the offspring of the aged falcon, a court heard. But call," prosecuting lawyer Chichester, southern England. pleaded guilty to five charges

Hidden cameras watch U.K. phones

: ONDON (R) - British telephone booths are being fitted with hidden cameras the size of a fingertip in an effort to catch thieves breaking into their cash boxes, a newspaper said Saturday. The cameras begin filming when their high-tech sergors detect any tampening with the coin box and relay pictures to a control room, the London Times newspaper said. British Telecom (BT) aims to fit up to 500 gadgets in booths across Hampshire, southern England, by the end of the year, it African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela is seated next to an election cam-paign poster as he listens to an ANC official after

he addressed a 20,000 strong supporters at the Soweto stadium three days ahead of South Afri-ca's all race national elections (AFP photo)

N. Korean offer 'may be bid to stampede' IAEA

VIENNA (R) - North Korea's offer to let international inspectors witness refuelling of its main atomic reactor comes with a time limit and may be less promising than it seems, diplomatic sources said Sunday.

Diplomats involved in the row over North Korea's suspected nuclear bomb project fear that, after months of stonewalling capped by an abortive mission in March, North Korea could now be simply trying to stampede the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) into a rush inspection, once again incom-

If so, the North may be courting economic sanctions by the United States and its Asian

finding out if North Korea has

been secretly diverting nuclear

The IAEA says inspecting the spent fuel core of the Yongbyon reactor is vital to

But both the agency and Washington reacted guardedly, the U.S. clearly suspecting North Korea of again playing for time to complete the next phase of an alleged atomic weapons project.

"The thing is, they've asked us to come and remove the (IAEA) seals from the reactor and they've given us 10 days,"

one diplomatic source close to the agency said.
"That's why there's this pressure to move quickly."
The IAEA is required by the U.N. to verify that there has been no diversion of nuclear materials to a covert project. It responded positively

A second diplomat said North Korea's 10-day offer had put the U.N. safeguards agen-cy on the spot. IAEA Director General Hans Blix now "has to decide whether this is worth doing" or bold out for solid and satisfactory terms, he said.

material, and therefore wel-**USSR** plotted to arm the IRA, Yeltsin says

LONDON (R) - The Soviet Union plotted to arm the Irish Repubbican Army (IRA) in the early years of the Northern Ireland conflict, according to the published memoirs of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Britain's Sunday Times newspaper, which is serialising Mr. Yeltsin's book, said the KGB arranged a secret arms shipment to the IRA between 1969 and 1972 in an operation overseen by Yuri Andropov, who was later to become Soviet leader.

Mr. Yeltsin's The View From Kremlin quotes from KGB files about a plan for the IRA to pick up bundles of weapons dropped from a Soviet ship at a spot in the sea just north of the island of Ireland, the newspaper said. The deal was set up using an Irish Communist middleman in three years of painstaking negotiations between Soviet

intelligence and the IRA, which in 1969 began its violent campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland.

The files are not clear about whether the plan actually went ahead but Mr. Yeltsin said be believed it probably did, according to the Sunday Times account of the memoirs.

It said the arms negotiations were documented in eight memos from Mr. Andropov which show the Kremlin was worried about supplying weapons which might be traced back to the Soviet Union.

One memo dated Oct. 21 1970 speaks of a draft plan to deliver 100 German assault rifles, nine machine guns and 20 pistols in a sea drop to be codenamed Operation Splash.

The Sunday Times quoted the then IRA Chief of Staff Cathal Goulding as confirming talks did take place with the Soviet Union but denying that any arms shipment was ever received.

The report quoted the Irish Communist cited in the files, Michael O'Riordan, as de-nying all knowledge of any arms operation.

All saved after plane

plane sank 15 minutes later.

All 23 passengers and two crew members were taken to hospital after being plocked from the water by several boats that converged on the plane 50 metres from the runway at Sydney's International Air-

"None suffered serious injuries - a couple of broken bones here and there but nothing major," a police spokes-

it would have been a different story,"-another policeman told The plane, owned by South

kilometres east of Australia, for a reunion of winners of the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest military bravery award.

The passengers included a dozen members of the Scot's College Pipe Band, journalists and several war veterans who were to take part in ANZAC Day ceremonies Monday to bononr war dead from Australia and New Zealand.

Reporter David McNichol of The Australian newspaper, wbo was aboard the twoengine propeller-driven plane, said its port engine failed shortly after takeoff.

(100 metres)... the port engine gave a couple of coughs and died," Mr. McNichol told Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio at the scene.

heavily into the water,"

ROME (R) — The leader of

Australian crash

SYDNEY (R) — A DC-3 air-plane carrying 25 people crashed into Sydney's Botany Bay shortly after takeoff Sun-day but fishing boats managed to rescue all aboard before the

"Any further out to sea and

Pacific Air bad been chartered by the Australian army for a trip to Norfolk Island, I.500

"We got up to about 300 feet

"The plane then started los-

ing altitude," he said.
"We came around in a big circle, obviously the pilot was trying to get us back on the runway but he just couldn't make it and we slammed pretty

including Interior Minister Faustin Munyazesa and at least two senior military officers, failed to turn up for the Tanzanian-brokered peace talks that had been scheduled to open here Saturday. They had still not arrived by

Rwanda's interim government, proclaimed after the presi-

dent's death, but not recog-nised by the Front which branded it "a clique of killers." The government delegates,

I:00 p.m. Snnday (1000 GMT), diplomats and U.N. officials seemed confused about their whereabouts. Some said they had driven to Zaire and then flown to the Kenyan capital Nairobi, and

would arrive in this northern Tanzanian town later Sunday But a senior U.N. official said the chances of face-to-face talks Sunday between rebei and government representatives were "about one per

Tanzanian Foreign Minister Joseph Rwegasira meanwhile welcomed the Front's ceasefire declaration as "a good development.

He said Tanzania, which brokered peace accords signed by Rwanda's rebels and gov-ernment here last August, had not expected the Front to re-

zied diplomatic efforts by Tan-

zania, the United Nations and the Organisation of African Ukraine, Russia far apart in fleet dispute Minister Viktor) Chernomyrdin and proposed meeting at the governmental or presiden-

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said the ontcome suggested Ukraine was "losing control over the situation and becoming increasingly inconsistent and unpredictable both in word and in "In connection with the current situation... President

Yeltsin is holding intensive consultations with competent (state) bodies," he added. Ukrainian President Kravchuk took a more conciliatory line in a flurry of weekend interviews

ing debacle should not be dramatised and that presidents and prime ministers could succeed where defence ministers had failed. "I spoke to (Russian Prime

giving just under 20 per cent to Ukraine and entitling Kiev to sell the remainder of its 50 per cent share to Russia. He said last week's negotiat-But the sticking point was the port of Sevastopol, a longstanding symbol of Russian

military glory on the Crimean peninsula — once ruled by Moscow and transferred to

Ukraine only in 1954. Jews, Catholics criticise Italy's new top woman Jews the "elder brothers" of Christians during an historic

1986 visit to Rome's Synago-

gue, the first by a Pontiff to a

place of Jewish worship. "Pivetti's comment was: 'I don't see why people who belong to a false religion should be considered our elder brothers'," Ms. Zevi told Reu-

Ms. Pivetti has been critical of the Pope's pleas for ecumenism and efforts at interreligious dialogue by Milan Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, who is widely considered a possible future pope.

Ms. Pivetti has defended herself by saying that no good Catholic denies his religion is the one true faith.

"She's against mosques being built in Italy because some Arab countries don't allow Catholic Churches," said Mr. Del Colle.

Lisa Palmieri-Billig. Rome representative of the Anti-Defamation League B'Nai-B'rith, said Ms. Pivetti's views predated the 1965 second Vatican Council, when the Vatican repudiated the notion of collective Jewish guilt for Jesus' crucifixion.

trying to set himself up as a professional falconer used an impotent peregrine falcon so old it had lost its mating call to "launder" illegally-raised chicks for sale, a newspaper 27, a former gamekeeper to the Earl of Egremont on his southern English estate at Pet-worth, sold five young falcons for £500 (\$745) each. He genetic tests carried out on the birds proved the alleged parent could not bave fathered any of the offspring, the Daily Tele-graph said. "He was geriatric and couldn't make the mating Ralph Furness told the court in Falcons are a protected species and it is illegal to take eggs from the wild. Mr. Edwards of possessing and selling wild peregrine factors.

to beat crime

Vatican, Latin Americans. prevent abortion consensus

UNITED NATIONS (R) -The Vatican, backed strongly by several Latin American states, has been successful in blocking agreement on key points of an action programme to stabilise the world's population in the next century.

Battle lines were drawn at a turbulent three-week public preparatory meeting at the United Nations that ended over the weekend with such issues as abortion, family planning and access to contraception for adolescents still unresolved.

Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Ecuador and, to a lesser extent, Argentina and Venezuela, backed Vatican positions on outlawing abortion under any circumstances and circomscribing family planning to married couples.

This group was supported by Malta, Benin and Mali and at times Morocco and the Ivory Coast bnt opposed by Brazil, which has a third of Latin America's population. Nicaragua went further than the Vatican by insisting the word "reproduction" be replaced by

"procreation."
The Roman Catholic Church opposes abortion under any circumstances as well as artifi-

cial means of birth control. Many European Union states beld off increasing financing for long-range prog-rammes until after the document is completed in September at a key international conference on population and development in Cairo. "We will compromise on

language," one EU delegate told Reuters. "But there is a limit. We want to see the quality of the document. It must have some compassionate langazge on abortion without treading on the legal rights of governments." He was referring to com-

promise proposals that ask states to deal with the health hazards of botched abortions the World Health Organisation says kill 400 women daily. Conference declarations are nearly always adopted by consensus rather than a vote,

which means a minority can

stall agreement on any issue.

Italy's new parliament. 31year-old Irene Pivetti, faces a flood of criticism for perceived anti-semitic and pro-fascist remarks just a week after her election. Ms. Pivetti, a member of the

federalist Northern League. made history on April 16 when she became the youngest parliamentary speaker in Italy since World War II with her election as leader of the Chamber of Deputies (lower house). Her first week in one of

Italy's highest institutional offices was called a "disaster" by the newspaper La Repubblica at the weekend after Roman Catholics, Jews and feminists criticised her for a rash of statements. The latest furore erupted over an interview the staunchly

conservative Catholic gave to the right-wing weekly Italia Settimanale in which she voiced admiration for the women's policies of wartime fascist dictator Benito Mussoli-

While Pivetti said she did

not support fascism she said

she "could see all the good

things fascism did for Italy."

advanced policy towards women - and nothing was done after him in those areas," she said.

Tina Anselmi, a former Christian Democrat and World War II resistance fighter, said Ms. Pivetti needed a history "If fascism, whose 'good things' she praises, had had its

parliament," Ms. Anselmi Under fascism, women were banned from most high-level jobs and had no right to vote. They received state aid for

way we wouldn't even have a

having several children. "Everyone knows Mussolini's family policies were based on the very dictates of war, said Beppe Del Colle, a leading Roman Catholic Church affairs commentator.

"The family was simply understood as the factory of the future fighters of an imperial Italy," he said.

Ms. Pivetti has said her remarks "referred to the pre-war

social reality in Italy" and were taken out of context. But they added to concern over the politics of the rightwing "Freedom Alliance" led

by media magnate Silvio Berlusconi which won last month's general elections.

Its main partners include the

Northern League and the neofascist National Alliance. whose leader Gianfranco Fini last month called Mussolini the greatest statesman of the century".

Ms. Pivetti, a graduate of the Catholic University of Milan and former journalist, has been a member of parliament since 1992. Her critics regard her as a religious radical whose com-

ments have bordered on the anti-Semitic. Some of Ms. Pivetti's remarks were cited last year in the World Jewish Council's anti-Semitism world "I think it's time the world

knew about Irene Pivetti," said Tullia Zevi, president of Italy's Union of Jewish Communities. "I would call her a fundamentalist Catholic whose views on the church's dialogue with Judaism and other religions are out of date." Ms.

Zevi said. Ms. Zevi recalled Ms. Pivetti's disagreement with Pope John Paul when he proclaimed

"Mussolini had the most مهدا عند الأصل

Ahli, Abbasi move into 2nd round Tottenham of U-22 basketball championship and Alkhas in what promises to be a competitive and in-

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Three maiches remain before the first round of the under-22 baske:buil tournament ends, paving the way for the top four of the nine competing teams to qualify to the second round and fight for the first of the season's basket-

The participating teams have been divided into two groups: Group 1 includes Al Jalil, Al Abbasi, Homentmen, Yarmouk and Abu Nusair, while the second group includes Al Jazireh, Al Ahli, Al Watani, and Gazzet Hashem.

Group 1 teams have already completed their matches with Al Abli and Al Abbasi moving to the second round.

Al Ahli Saturday topped group 1 standings when they beat Al Aobasi 98-65, the first half ending 53-32. Al Abbasi also proved that

their under-22 team means business when they became the first team to qualify for the second round of the tournement - the first of the season's 12 competitions organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Al Abbasi, formerly a lowly second division club, lost only to Al Ahli. They defeated Al Yarmouk, 77-47 (46-26), Homentmen 71-45 (29-18) and

Abu Nusair 98-24 (52-10). Despite the determined efforts of Abbasi's players led by Ashraf Samara, Tareo Najjar and Ivad Zalatimo, they could not keep up with the Kingdom's current basketball champions, Al Ahii,

Al Abbasi's young team has been playing with greater confidence since they beat Al Orthodoxi to clinch third place in the U-19 competition back in January. However, Al Ahli's more experienced players including Mohammad and Taimour Shamali, Ramez Hammoudeh, Wisam Nino, Zeid Alkhas and Riyad Ayesh, in addition to an abundant number of substitutes easily penetrated their opponent's defences, winning the first half -22 before sealing the match

93-65 to top the group. Al Ahli had scored big wins over the rest of the teams: 25-71 over Al Yarmouk, 160-43 over Abu Nusair and 140-55 over Homentmen.

In another match, Al Yarmouk apset Homentmen 65-41 to clinch third place in group 1.

Homentmen, playing with the absence of their coach. seemed at a loss and lost the match after a big number of unforced errors, turnovers and ioose balls which enabled Al Yarmouk to score at ease and take a comfortable lead. Al Yarmouk led 19-9 before

Raffi Havrabedian and team star Aia Abu Rahmeh scored to narrow the gap to 19-15 and However. Yarmouk again

expanded their lead to win the first half 28-22 by scoring eight consecutive points, including a Al Yarmouk secured their

three pointer. win early in the beginning of the second half, when they played a full court defence and succeeded in scoring 17 consecutive points to lead 45-22.

Vasken Menesbian, Abu Rahmeh and Mohammad Qardan enabled Homentmen to better their score at 49-35, but Al Yarmonk kept up their pace

teresting round.

age group.

pionship was cancelled in 1993.

many promising players have

this year also missed the com-

petition, as players who were

registered as just under-22 in

1993 could not join their teams in 1994. JBF rules this year

stipulate that only those born

after 1973 can compete in this

Most teams were un-

doubtedly affected by this

technicality. Hence, titleholders Al Orthodoxi, who won

the last U-22 championship in

1992 have opted not to com-

pete this year. Similarly Al Asbrafieh, Al Hussein, Al Karak, Al Wifaq, Anjarah, Al Mafraq and Al Husun clubs

are not competing this season.

According to the JBF's 1994

regulations, first division in-

cludes teams are required to

compete in at least two age

groups, while second division

in only one age group.

This year the first divison includes only seven teams: Al Ahli, Al

Orthodoxi, Jazireh, Jalil.

Watani, Hussein and Homent-

men. Two teams will be rele-

gated in 1994 and only one

team will be promoted from

the first division making the

total number of competing

teams only six in 1995 com-

the world, dominated the

match from the start, waining

in 99 minutes and forcing the

pace throughout the match. Bruguera seemed flat in con-

trast to his two previous victor-

ies where he had a streak of 21

Bruguera stayed close in the

first set but Medvedev was

overwhelming in the second

set, winning six consecutive games in taking the second set

streak. He took nine straight

games from the second game in the second set until the third

game in the third set, having a

Bruguera managed to come

back to 4-3. But Medvedev

stayed in control to take the

Medvedev was on a hot

in 27 minutes.

3-0 lead.

consecutive winning games.

pared to eight until 1993.

and won the match 65-41. Homentmen thus finished fourth in the group after de-feating Abu Nusair 56-44 (31-

In group 2, Al Jazireb and Al Jalil are in the lead and are expected to qualify for the second round which will undonbtedly witness some tough competition among the four

Al Jazireh have so far defeated Al Watani 91-62 and Gazzet Hashem 116-36. They will next face Al Jalil Friday. Al Jalil defeated Al Watani

77-51. They will meet Gazzet Hashem Wednesday in a post-poned match before they play In the second round, both Al Jazireb and Al Ahli seem to

bave a good shot at the title since most of their players are well experienced after playing alongisde their senior teams in the first division. Al Ahli and Al Jazireh's players have also joined the

Jordanian youth oational team. Al Jazireh's Ghaith Ennabi, Yousef Abn Bakr. Anwar Haddad and new recruit Naser Alawneh will face off with Al Abli's Shamali brothers. Faisal Ensour, Nino

MONTE CARLO, Monaco

(AP) — Andrei Medvedev po-

wered past defending cham-pion Sergi Bruguera, 7-5, 6-1, 6-3 Sunday to win the \$1.7 million Monte Carlo Open. The 19-year-old Medvedev.

Ukraine, was in his second

final of the year in three

seventh title oo the pro circuit

and first since last August

when he won the New Haven

woo \$235,000 for the victory.

Bruguera, seeded fifth, re-ceived \$124,000. Bruguera

woo Monte Carlo in 1991.

beating Boris Becker, and last

year overtaking Cedrie Pioline

The sixth-seeded Medvedev

tournaments.

Tournament.

ethnic Russian from

wins; Swindon relegated Since the U-22 cham-

LONDON (AP) - French striker Eric Cantona returned from a five-game suspension to score both goals in Manchester United's 2-0 victory over Manchester City late Saturday and reopen the Reds' tbree-point lead atop the premier league stangings.

Cantona, who received the ban after being sent off in two successive games, struk in the 39th and 45th minutes as United outgunned relegationthreatened City.

United now has 82 points and second place Blackburn Rovers has 79. Both have four games to play. Swindon's relegation after

only one season in the top flight was confirmed when John Gorman's team lost 4-2 at home to Wimbledon. Robbie Earle netted twice as

Wimbledon overpowered the Robins at the county ground and Swindon, which still has three premier league games to play, now has conceded 92 goals in 39 games.

Osvaldo Ardiles' fears that his Tottenham team would join Swindon in division one were eased by a 3-0 home victory ove: fellow struggler Southampton.

It was the Spurs' first win at White Hart Lane in 15 games after seven ties and seven defeuts and it moved Tottenham to four points above the relegation zone instead of two.

Sheffield United gained a I-0 victory at Norwich to move up one place from next-to-last, leapfroaging Oldham, which lost 3-2 at third place Newcaslpswich dropped further into

trouble after losing 5-0 at Sheffield Wednesday and Everton struggled to a goal-less tie at home to Coventry. With games running out,

Manchester City has 43 points.

Location: Sweifieh.

Scherbo wins 3 golds at gymnastic championships

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) - Vitaly Scherbo, stung by a mistake-riddled all around performance, carried off two apparatus golds in Sunday's final day of competition in the World Gymnastie Championships to leave here with

The 22-year-old Belorussian reaffirmed his status as king of gymnastics with golds in the vault and high bar apparatus finals to duplicate his threegold medal haul at last year's Birmingbam world championships in England.

Reflectiog on his two startling errors on the rings and parallel bars which left him with a bronze in Thursday's all around competition behind compatriot Ivan Ivankov. Scherbo said: "After the all around competition I was very upset. Maybe I didn't show that with the smile on my face,

but not in my soul.
"After this I said to myself that I had to win a couple of gold medals because I was (paose) ... It's a bad word. I can't tell you."

"I was disappointed that as a professional I made two mistakes in a day. It was unbelievable, not only for you guys (the press), but for me."

Scherbo, the unprecedented winner of six gold medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. began his redemption with Saturday's win on the floor. He continued to salve his conscience on Sunday. He was

in all three men's apparatus finals and came away with gold "I expected before the meet to win two gold medals, but I didn't tell anybody about that

because of my superstition ... if I had told anyone before the competition then God would punish me." Scherbo said. Scherbo, who plans a series of exhibitions in France next month, followed by competi-

tion in the United States leadseventh. ing up to the European Championships in Prague, topscored with 9.674 points on the vault and 9.687 on the high bars to



Belarus' Vitaly Scherbo performs on the vanit during the final of the men's vault at the 1994 World Gymnastic Champioaships Sunday (AFP photo)

finish the championships with a flourish.

The Australian bounty swelled his career world gold medal tally to eight. Women's all around cham-pion. Shannon Miller of the

United States, was the leading female gymnast claiming het second gold medal of the championships with victory on the beam Sunday.

Miller scored 9.875 points to beat Ukraine's Lilia Podkopayeva (9.737) and Oxana Fabrichnova of Russia 19.712).

But America's most decorated gymnast could have been further weighed down by med-als if not for landing outside the area while performing her graceful floor routine to relegate her to fourth place and losing ber balance while dismounting from the vault apparatus Saturday to finish

"I tried new skills in all my routines and did them all except for the vault." 17-year-old Miller said Sunday,

Miller's highly-rated teammate Dominique Dawes crashed out of the championships without a medal after being in a pronument post-tion in the all around and missing out on medals in the vault and floor Sunday,

Romanian I avinia Milesovier, world champion on the beam and Olympic champion on the floor, came away with two silver and a bronze.

Romania, one-time gymnastic superpower, finished with two gold medals, one behind Belarus, after 16-year-old Gina Gogean won the vault and Marius Urzica took the pom-

China enjoyed one of its best world championships in modern times with two golds - Li Luo's exhilarating fluency on the uneven bars to receive a championship high 9,912 points Saturday and Liping Huane's win Sunday on the men's parallel bars with 9.775

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHASIS

Both vulnerable. North deals. NORTH AJ 10 103

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A Q J 9 83 The hidding:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 3 Pass

4 ± Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Three of
Do you consider yourself a "finesse maven?" If so, here's a chance
for you to shine. How would you play to make six spedes after 2 heart lead?

You have conducted a good auc-tion to reach an excellent siam with only 29 high-card points in the com-hined holding. Now you have to jus-tify your fine hidding. You can plan to take both fi-

elections.

19:00.

nesses if you so desire, even though your only entry outside the trump sur less been knocked out by the opening lead. However, beware of the diamond finesse. If it falls, you will still have to take the club finesse. That is not true of the chib finesse because, if it loses, dummy's clubs will take care of all your losers

in the diamond suit.

Once you've reached that concluzion. y u may as well draw trumps after wanning the first trick with dummy's ere of hearts. You end up in your head when the third round removes the outstanding trump and run the queen of clubs. It holds. What have you tearned about the

That depends on the skill of the celepder sitting in the East seat. I he's good, you have learned absolutely nothing—it is routine to duck the king of clubs in this situation. To repeat the finesse would invite defeat if it loses. However, your siam is now secure. Continue by leading a chib to the ace and your crity loser is a diamond.

Actually, here your technique will reap an unexpected reward. East ducked the club despite holding only a coubleton king and when his majesty drops under the ace you score an overtrick.

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O A A A Y	TORE S JERRY The Movie Performances: 11 00 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, "White Palace": at 8:30 + 10:30 p.m.	Corey Haim & Corey Feldman, Nicole Eggert in BLOWN AWAY Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' A PERFECT WORLD Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:50 CONCORD '2' MR. JONS Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	The political comedy play FORBIDDEN FORBIDDEN Every night at 8:30 p.m.	Coming soon Abu Awad in: The new comedy play: "A PUNCTURED BAG" Directed by Ghassan At Mashini	The Political Satire "Ahlan Arab Summit Conference" at 8:30 p.m

TOKYO (AP) - Foreign Minister Tsutnmu Hata was tn become Japan's new prime minister Monday, starting out already behind in his work. Major government business was put on hold far two weeks as the governing coalition's choice of a replacement for Morihira Hosokawa was delayed by factional squabbling over what policies the new cabinet should pursue. The hudget for the fiscal year that began April I already is more than three weeks overdue. Deliberations on that had been set back earlier by Parliament's attention to questions about Hosokawa's personal finances - questions that led him to step down on April 8. Mr. Hosokawa and his cabinet were to formally resign Monday morning, clearing the way for parliament's formal vote approving Mr. Hata. 58, who is head of the coalition's second-largest party and has been a member of parliament since 1969. Coalition leaders said they will cooperate in helping Mr. Hata get the hudget through parliament quickly.

Qadhafi sends message to Saddam

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein received a letter Sunday from Libya's Moammar Qadhafi dealing with the nearly four-year-old international embargo against Baghdad. The official Iraqi News Agency said Colonel Mustafa Kharrubi, the third-ranking official in Libya, delivered the message to President Saddam. Col. Kharrubi was quoted as stressing "Lihya's unwavering support for Iraq in its struggle to get the sanctions lifted." The international embargo of Iraq was imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Libya is also straining under sanctions introduced after it refused to hand over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan American jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. Col. Kharruhi also has visited Iran on his current swing.

Kuwait plans Iraq border posts

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait will soon start installing observation posts and electronic monitoring devices along its border with Iraq to keep out infiltrators, the Kuwait News Agency reported. Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said the second phase of a border fortification project would include "establishment of border stations and observation posts equipped with sophisticated monitoring equipment," it aid. Sheikh Saad made the remarks on a tour of the border on Saturday, the official agency said late on Saturday. The United Nations in January deployed 775 Bangladeshi troops to reinforce 250 unarmed U.N. military observers who have been stationed along the border for the past three years. Kuwait earlier this year completed building a ditch and sand wall along the 207-kilometre frontier. The fortifications are not designed to withstand a military assault.

Egypt hangs 10 drug traffickers

ZAGAZIG. Egypt (R) — Egypt hanged 10 convicted drug smugglers on Sunday, the largest group execution for years, witnesses said. They said the 10 foreigners were executed one after another in a prison in the northeastern town of Zagazig. A Reuter report on Friday, based on statements by security sources, incorrectly said they were executed in Cairo the previous day. The 10 men — four Sudanese, two Bangladeshis, a Somali, an Indian, a Tanzanian and a Kenyan bad been on death row since 1989. Their last appeal was rejected in December.

Sheikh Sabah starts Maghreb tour

KUWAIT (AP) - Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah left Sunday on his first post-liberation tour of Maghreb countries, aimed at improving strained relations and mustering support against Iraq. The official's 10 day tour will take him to Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco. These countries did not openly support Kuwait during the sevenmonth Iraqi occupation that was ended three years ago by a U.S.-led international coalition. Sheikh Sabah was quoted by the independent daily Al Qabas as saying his new foreign policy strategy was hased on "gaining new friends for Kuwait's just cause and putting the Iraqi regime under a political and diplomatic siege." He said the tour would mark "a new beginning" for the relations of these countries with Kuwait, and noted that there was no "anti-Kuwait official stance" during the occupation by any of them.

PLO official holds talks in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) - A senior Palestine Liberarion Organisa tion (PLO) official held talks on Saturday in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the Middle East peace process, the Official Emirates News Agency said. It said Mahmoud Abbas, who in September last year signed the PLO's peace deal with Israel, met Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamilan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan. Mr. Abbas has been leading the PLO's efforts to mend ties with Gulf Arah states, angered by the PLO's sympathy with Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. The PLO's Sa'eb Erakat last week toured Gulf Arab states, urging them to help finance a Palestinian police force and pressure the World Bank to start work on projects worth \$4 billion in the occupied territories. Qatar and the UAE each pledged \$25 million while Saudi Arabia said it will give \$100 million to an international fund which will finance projects in the occupied territories.

Boat captain held after 41 drown in Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syrian police have arrested the captain of a fishing boat which capsized causing the deaths of 36 primary schoolchildren and five women teachers, officials said Sunday. Mohammad Nadim Darwish had fled after the disaster Friday off the northern port of Latakia. More than 60 people on a school excursion were on board the old fishing boat, huilt for no more than 15 people, when it capsized. The dead included the director of the school in Kalmakho village in northern Syria and her six-year-old child. Information Minister Mohammad Salman visited Kalmakho Saturday, and said the authorities were determined to "inflict the strictest punishment on those responsible" for the disaster.

1,000 Kurdish rebels killed this year

ANKARA (AFP) — More than 1,000 Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas have been killed this year, and 1,976 have been arrested, Turkisb Interior Minister Nahit Mentese said Sunday, Mr. Mentese said that 1,037 PKK fighters had been killed between Jan. 1 and April 23. In total, close to 4.500 had been "taken out of combat." During air and ground operanons by Turkish armed forces in northern Iraq. 79 guerrillas had been killed and a significant quantity of arms, ammunition and food and medical supplies had been seized, Mr. Mentese added. The arms seized included morrars, shells, rockets and rocket launchers, he said. Mr. Mentese called on the PKK rebels to surrender "to the law" and cited legislation which allows reduced sentences for rebels who have not been implicated in killings.

Presidents of UAE, Egypt hold talks

DUBAl (R) - Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak and United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan discussed Yemen's political crisis in talks in Abu Dhabi Egypt's foreign minister was quoted as saying on Sunday. The two men also discussed the situation in Bosnia. regional issues and bilateral economic cooperation. Amr Musa told the Emirates News Agency (WAM), without giving details. Mr. Mubarak arrived in the UAE on Saturday. Mr. Mubarak left for Bahrain later on Sunday, WAM said. Egypt and the UAE have launched a joint mediation effort aimed at finding a solution to a political crisis threatening Yemen's four-year unity. .



passengers of a DC-3 plane which crashed in Botany Bay near Sydney on Sunday. All 26 aboard were rescued after the plane crashed into

take-off, with the most serious injury appearing to be a hroken wrist (AFP photo)

Security forces prevent possible pro-Geagea protest in Bkirki

BKIRKI, Lebanon (R) -Lebanese troops fired into the air to disperse worshippers banned from attending Sunday mass at the seat of the Maronite Chrisnan patriarchy, wit-

nesses said. Soldiers at the entrance of Bkirki, headquarters of Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, fired assault rifles to keep a crowd of about 500 people. including women and children, from forcing their way in, the

People ducked for cover during the outburst of shooting, which lasted for five minutes, but stayed behind the gate. They later sat on the road stopping anyone from entering or leaving the premises. No one was hurt by the shooning, but two men were injured during scuffles with the soldiers.

It was the latest move by the government against supporters of the banned Christian Lebanese Forces milina whose chieftain, Samir Geagca, has been detained for questioning in connection with a church bombing and killing of a rival Christian leader.

An army force of dozens of soldiers backed by four armoured troop carriers had banned cars carrying worshippers from approaching Bkirki,

The soldiers asked bundreds of worshippers to park their cars some three kilometres away from the hilliop seat. Most worshippers then walked to Bkirki, only to be stopped by soldiers guarding the main

the witnesses said.

entrance, they said. After a delay of 30 minutes, soldiers allowed only a handful of people to go in after taking down their names and telling them to remain calm throughout the procession. About 500 people remained outside.

An army spokesman was not available to comment on the

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. explains 'catalytic' Bosnia policy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Following what it sees as misinterpretations and confusions over its position in the conflict in former Yugoslavia, the United Nations has released a "position" paper explaining the chain of events and the world body's approach to the strife in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The paper affirms that it was a request by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in early February that led to a new international position towards the conflict.

Reports from Sarajevo said Sunday Bosnian Serbs, long accused of waging "ethnic cleansing" and an annihilation campaign against Muslims, were largely heeding a NATO ultimatum to stop their assaults on several Muslim enclaves in Bosnia-Herzegovina (See page one). The ultimatum followed the success of a NATO warning in February that ended a 20-month-old Bosnian Serb siege of Sarajevo.

The U.N. position paper said Dr. Ghali's request to NATO to carry out air strikes if Bosnian Serbs did not lift the siege of Sarajevo "played a catalytic role that resulted in the strong and firm action, which, combined with diplomatic efforts, led to a fundamental change for the bet-

ter" in the Bosnian capital. The paper, a copy of which was provided by the Amman office of the Economic and Social Council for Western Asia, referred to the latest situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said Dr. Ghali had written to NATO for the expanded use of air power to protect Gorazde and other U.N.-declared "safe areas" in the strife-torn coun-

"This seems to have had the same catalytic effect" as the U.N. chief's initiative on Sarajevo, the paper said. Following are excerpts from

The United Nations, through UNPROFOR, has made constant and repeated efforts to try to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to respect Gorazde's status as a safe area, as called for hy the Security Council.

Under shelling from the Bosnian Serb forces, UNPRO-FOR asked NATO on April 16 for close air support in defence of the military observers inside Gorazde. In this historic first use of close air support, NATO planes destroyed a limited number of Serb targets responsible for attacks on the safe area.

On April 18, the secretarygeneral wrote to the secretarygeneral of NATO asking him to obtain from the NATO Council the delegation of authority to the commander of NATO's Southern Command. in order to respond to requests from the U.N. to use air strikes in defence of Gorazde as well as the other safe areas - as had been done for Sarajevo.

At week's end, the U.N. is still awaiting a response from the NATO Council, which from initial reports, is favourably inclined to grant the secretary-general's request.
Meanwhile, contacts are taking place between the commander of NATO Southern Command and UNPROFOR in Zagreb about arrangements necessary to ensure the protection of UNPROFOR and other U.N. personnel on the ground should it prove necessary to carry out air strikes.

On Thursday, following aborted attempts, a U.N. convoy was on its way to Gorazde carrying approximately 140 military personnel, including a medical unit of about 40 peo-

A number of U.N. personnel throughout Bosnia, whose movements had been restricted by Bosnian Serbs earlier in the week, have all been released, and weapons which were seized have been returned.

On April 10, 1994, the secretary-general received a letter from (French) President (Francois) Mitterrand asking him to convene a high-level international conference on the former Yngoslavia. The secretary-general replied positively to the president's suggestion. He had suggested precisely such an idea in discussions with the Security Council and other members in June 1993. based on his firm belief that the other problems in the former Yugoslavia can only be addressed and solved comprehensively and through negotia-

The secretary-general has been briefed about (U.S.) President (Bill) Clinton's initiative as well as his contacts with the Russian President and others regarding the possibility of the convening of a summit. He is supportive of these initiarives, which coincide with his own thinking for the past several months.

Despite strong criticism of the U.N. in the past few weeks, the movement which has occured over the last seven to 10 days in fact stems from the U.N.'s initiatives. They are leading to military action and diplomatic initiatives which may lead to unblocking the situation in the former Yugoslavia and to a return to peace negotiations.

Iraq expects to resume oil exports this year

AMMAN (AP) — Iraq's oil minister said in comments published Sunday that his country expected to resume oil exports

by the end of the year. Safa Hadi Jawad, in an interview in the Al Dustour Arabic daily, also said other Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) producers would have to cut their quotas to make room for Iraqi oil in the international market.

Iraq produced more than three million barrels a day before the U.N. Security Council imposed sweeping trade sanc-tions following the Angust 1990 invasion of neighbouring Kuwait.

The embargo bans all Iraqi exports and permits only the sale of food and medicine to the country, which sits atop 11 per cent of the world's known Mr. Jawad did not make any

direct reference to the embargo, but his comments reflected optimism that the U.N. Security Council would lift the sanctions following Baghdad's compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"Iraq is ready to resume oil exports at any time," Mr. Jawad told Al Dustour. "We expect that our oil exports will start during 1994." The minister's comments

appeared on the same day Rolf Ekeus, the head of the U.N. Special Commission charged with the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destructioo under the ceasefire terms, ar-

rived in Baghdad.

Depnty Prime Minister
Tareq Aziz was expected to
press Mr. Ekeus for a definite timetable for lifting the sanc-

In his interview with Al Dus-

Mr. Jawad also said American and Western oil companies he did not name were negotiating with the Iraqi government. But he said that no agreements had been signed with the Amer-

icans. The minister was quoted in the Iraqi media in early March as saying that the French oil companies ELF-Aquitaine and Total had already signed agreements with Baghdad.

There are negotiations under way with a number of American oil companies which are interested in digging new oil wells in Iraq." Mr. Jawad said. "Also there are companies from other Western nations in touch with Iraq."

"Negotiations with the American companies are still in the initial phase and we cannot predict the outcome," Mr. Jawad said. He declined to name these companies.

Jordan-based Western diplo-

mats who are monitoring Iraqi affairs said an oil delegation representing Canadian Occidental would arrive in Jordan en route to Iraq on Mon-

The diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Canadian company would discuss with the Baghdad government oil sales after the lifting of the sanctions.

They said that Italian and Australian oil companies as well as America's Shell, Texaco and Exxon had similar contacts with the Iraqis.

In the interview, Mr. Jawad said Iraq expected its fellow OPEC members "to cut their production when we resume oil exports.

That way, the world market will not be flooded and prices will not be affected," he

tour, conducted in Baghdad, **Upsurge of violence** feared in Burundi

BUJUMBURA (R) - Diplomats and aid workers said on Sunday they feared a sudden upsurge of violence in Rwanda's neighbour Burundi where insecurity is worsening daily, They said a government

deadline for people to hand in all illegal weapons before 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) on Snnday was expected to be widely ignored. Passage of the deadline

might spark fresh violence between the Tutsi-dominated military and gunmen from the Hutu majority — the same tribes who have plunged Rwanda into bloody turmoil. "I doubt all hell will break

loose all over Burundi but it might be confirmed to specific parts of town," a diplomat said. "The problem is that the

armed forces have been trying to disarm everyone for a long time now but haven't been able to do it, so there is a chance it will get hloodier when the deadline passes," he added. Diplomats have warned Hutu-Tutsi violence in Rwanda might spill over into neigh-

have suffered from periodie outbreaks of tribal slaughter since independence in 1962. The estimated 100,000 killed in Rwanda over the past two and a balf weeks is the

bouring Burundi. Both states

bloodiest mass slaughter in Africa since massacres that killed 100,000 in Burundi in 1972.

The killing in Rwanda began after President Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundi's President Cyprien Ntaryamira were killed when a rocket downed their plane at Kigali airport on April 6. The diplomats and aid workers said troops had been besieging three northeastern suburbs of Bujumbura since Wednesday and civilians in the interior had been errecting barricades to stop armoured vehicles being brought to the capital by the military. The government announced

the deadline on Saturday after new President Sylvestre Nti-bantunganya held talks with security officials on how to end sporadic hut almost nightly

Rwanda talks collapse

Meanwhile, plans for peace talks to end the slaughter in Rwanda collapsed on Sunday with a rebel leader refusing to negotiate and a government delegation failing to arrive.

"I'm leaving for Nairobi," Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) Secretary-General Theogene Rudasingwa told reporters before walking out of the hotel in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha where the talks were supposed to take place.

Tanzanian officials said a Rwandan government delegation to the peace talks, called by Tanzania and originally supposed to start on Saturday, never arrived in Arusba and had vanished.

Even before leaving by road for the Kenyan capital, Mr. Rudasingwa insisted he had no intention of meeting any members of a Rwandan government team as the rebels did not recognise the government (see page 8).

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Cameroon president marries sweetheart

Paul Biya of Cameroon married 24-year-old Chantal Vigouroux in civil and church ceremonies, state radio said. Like their traditional wedding on Feh. 26, the nuptials were private and shrouded in official secrecy until the radio news bulletin. Private newspapers trying to report on the event were censored. "No, I don't have an invitation either. The president wants to marry withont too much ado," Joseph Anderson Lee, Mr. Biya's favourite journalist told Reuters. Mr. Biya's first wife Jean-ne-Irene died in 1992 of cancer. The 61-year-old Biya's second wife is the daughter of a Frenchman and a Cameroonian woman who was brought up by "papa" Azar, a Lebanese restaurant owner in Yaounde. She used to run one of ber foster-father's restaurants. She met Mr. Biya this year at his New Year reception where she was taken by her foster-sister, Elise Azar, the wife of one of the president's cousins. Like the traditional wedding, Saturday's ceremony in the presidency's chapel was attended by the couple's intimate circle

Princess Anne honoured

LONDON (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth conveyed one of Britain's highest honours - the Order of the Garter - on her daughter Princess Anne, in recognition of the princess's humanitarian work, Known as the "caring princess", Princess . Anne has gained a reputation for tirelessly travelling to poor regions of the world, most not-ably in her role as president of the organisation Save the Children. In February, she was in Ethiopia and travelled to the south of the country to visit Save The Children projects and Somali refugee camps. She then went on to Eritrea and, soon afterwards, was in Viet-nam, where she visited centres for handicapped and orphaned children. The princess can now add the letters LG — Lady of the Most Noble Order of the Garter — after her name. The new title supersedes her other tumerous distinctions. The Order of the Garter was instituted in 1348 by King Edward

Prince Edward 'to marry this year'

LONDON (R) - Britain's Prince Edward is planning a low-key wedding to his girlfriend Sophie Rhys-Jones later this year in a royal chapel, British tabloid newspapers reported Sunday. The Sunday Mirror and the People both quoted unidentified "royal insiders" as saying the hachelor prince had won Queen Elizabeth's blessing for the love match with the 29-year-old public relations executive. Speculation of an autumn royal wedding for the 30-year-old prince has been mounting amid reports that Ms. Rhys-Jones will move into the royal family's Buckingham Palace early to begin her training for public life. Prince Edward, who has set up his own television production company, would be the last of the queen's children to marry. All his sibhings have had troubled marriages, with his two elder brothers Prince Charles and Prince Andrew both estranged from their wives. The Sunday Mirror said the prince was planning a restrained wedding in St. George's Chapel on the Windsor royal estate, a far cry from the televised pageants that launched his brothers' ill-fated marriages.

Diana visits N. ireland troops

BELFAST (AP) - The Princess of Wales made a surprise trip Saturday to British soldiers under her command in Northem Ireland. Princess Diana was flown by army belicopter to Enniskillen 50 miles (80 ins) west of Belfast to meet members of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment based there. After lunch in the officers' mess, Princess Diana chatted with soldiers about to go out on patrol. The princess is considered colonel-in-chief of the regiment. Princess Diana has often travelled to the British-ruled province as part of her royal duties, including last November and December. This erip was private and media members were barred from the military compound.

Company on boycott list bids for contract in Jordan By a Jordan Times United States. come through a resolution

Staff Reporter

AMMAN — When the government-owned Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) last week accepted bids for a licence to install and operate a multi-million dollar cellular telephone network in the Kingdom, it implicitly hroke the Arab boycott of

The TCC accepted the hid from a Jordanian firm in partnership with an American company included on the Arab League's boycott list — Motor-

Motorola, which operates Israel's cellular network and maintains manufacturing facilines there, hid in partnership with the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services Company.

The tender for the project. which is expected to be operational in one year, was open to only Jordanian companies, as stipulated by a new law passed by Parliament last year that allowed local privatesector participation in the provision of telecommunication

services. The tender, however, re-

quires local firms to be associated with foreign companies with proven experience in the field. The qualifications and expertise of the foreign operators in running the Global System for Mobiles (GSM) network will be one of the main considerations of the TCC while granting the project. (The local company must enter into a contract with the foreign operator to manage the venture)

"Officially we are only dealing with Jordanian companies. Motorola is not on the table." said Minister of Telecommunications Tareq Suheimat. "To be fair, we have to look at all the companies and their bids and go through a long evaluation process. There may be other companies on the boycott list," said the minister, who stressed that it was "premature" to discuss the issue since the evaluation process had not reached that stage.

Foreign companies participating in the eight bids, which were unsealed last Tuesday, also included Cable and Wireless of Britain, Telecom Finland. SFR of France and Millicom. Vega and Nynex of the

Motorola, whose local partners include the Housing Bank, the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), the Union Bank for Investments and Mid investment, came first in the

The group's offer was JD 38 million, almost twice that of the second highest bidder. But an extensive evaluation process is carried out before a contract is finally awarded.

"Motorola may not be awarded the project, but the fact that it was allowed to hid means Jordan ignored the Arah boycott at least for this project," said a competitor. "Motorola's high offer may be an attempt to whet the appetite of the government to overlook the boycott."

Companies must pay a licence fee of JD 7 million to the TCC, plus compensation for scrapping the existing mobile telephone system and a minimum 20 per cent annual royalty to the state-owned corpora-

Mr. Subeimat said: "We have to be very careful and look out for the national interest. We want the best for

the country and we want this project. It is a political decision, and a complicated issue." A Department of Customs clearance is required for all

companies that do business in Jordan, including, among other things, a check on whether it is on the boycott list. Motorola appears in the blacklist of the department. Local private companies

dealing with firms on the hlacklist are in violation of the Arab League boycott regula-In a pre-bid conference with

prospective investors, the TCC made it clear, according to one of the participants, that foreign operators involved in the bids should not be on the boycott Jordan insists on maintain-

ing the 43-year-old boycott until a just, lasting and comprehensive peace is achieved. Jordan's official position was again reaffirmed at a March 26 Arab League meeting which ignored American and European pressure to ease the boycott.

Since the Arah League imposed the boycott, any lifting of the embargo should also

from the league. His Royal Highness Crown

Prince Hassan has said that lifting the boycott of Israel "prematurely" would be "tantamount to economic suicide" for Jordan.

The GSM project is one of the country's largest ventures, and the second to allow the private sector to enter the telecommunications sector after a radio paging concession granted four years ago. The GSM is seen as essential for Jordan in competing with other countries in the region, especially now that a peace settlement is expected to open borders between the Arab World and Israel.

Motorola, a leading supplier of cellular equipment, recently won a \$32 million contract for a 30,000-subscriber GSM system in Kuwait, which relaxed restrictions on blacklisted firms after the Gulf war.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, in a visit to the region in January, said fresh American investment in Jordan depended on removal of

(Continued on page 5)

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